

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR GENEVA MEETING

PY272349 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Feb 84 p 8

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who is leaving for Geneva this afternoon, has reported that Argentina has decided to promote the holding of a Nonaligned Movement meeting in Buenos Aires to discuss the issue of the arms race between the superpowers, so that "the great majority of people who will be affected by a nuclear war may voice their concerns" on this subject. The Argentine foreign minister stated that he had sent a message regarding this to Indira Ghandi, the prime minister of India and president of the Nonaligned Movement. In his statement, Caputo noted that he will give details about this meeting on Tuesday in a speech he will deliver in Geneva before the UN Disarmament Commission, which is now meeting.

He also reported that Argentina will promote "the same policy it is implementing at the domestic level" at the UN Human Rights Commission, which is also meeting in Geneva and at which Caputo is scheduled to speak on Monday. He added: "The government will not treat any differently at the international level those who make human rights violations and it will point them out whether in the East, West, North, or South." However, he noted that the government's position in this regard will be limited only to the human rights issue and that the Argentine Government will not take advantage of the situation "to sneak in" messages on other issues "as has frequently happened in this delicate, but much-discussed issue."

Predeparture Comments

PY262245 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said the Radical government would make a "systematic effort" to end human rights violations around the world, regardless of whether they occur "in the east, west, north, or south" and separately stated "there is no reason for conjecture" as to the possibility of talks with Great Britain on the Malvinas issue.

Caputo spoke to the press before leaving yesterday afternoon for Geneva, where he will address the United Nations Human Rights Commission. The minister also announced that during his trip he will formally suggest that Buenos Aires be the site of a non-aligned nations conference on disarmament.

Questioned about statements made to the HERALD last Thursday by Radical Deputy Federico Storani that "there will be no agreement in the near future" between Argentina and Great Britain in restarting the Malvinas talks, Caputo advised against conjecture, adding that "as soon as we have a reply from the British, we'll be able to speak, albeit carefully, on the issue."

Caputo, who before returning will speak to the UN Disarmament Commission in Mexico [as published], announced the Foreign Ministry had sent the head of the nonaligned nations group, Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi, a letter requesting that Buenos Aires host disarmament talks designed to "stop the nuclear weapons race."

Accompanying Caputo to Geneva and Mexico are Radical Senator Antonio Berhongaray, Rabbi Marshal Meyer, and presidential human rights adviser Carlos Nino. During his stay in Geneva, Caputo is to meet with International Labour Organization officials and Swiss Foreign Minister Raoumond Probst.

Before leaving yesterday at 5 pm, Caputo met for five minutes with Foreign Relations Secretary Elsa Kelly, who had just returned from Nicaragua where she attended ceremonies in honour of the revolutionary Cesar Sandino.

Kelly afterwards declined to comment on press reports that she would resign due to policy differences with Caputo, stating only that "all that I have to say has already been said by the foreign minister." The minister on Wednesday publicly denied that the two are on bad terms.

SOVIET SUPPORT ON FALKLANDS REAFFIRMED

PY271350 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1753 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Mar del Plata, 25 Feb (TELAM) -- Soviet Ambassador to Argentina Oleg Kvasov has stated here that the USSR's position on the Malvinas case is clear, firm, and consistent. We have and will continue to give all our political and diplomatic support to Argentina to reach a political solution to this problem at the negotiating table. He added that all resolutions approved by the United Nations must be respected. We all feel that it is a problem of a colonial nature that must be solved as soon as possible, and our solidarity is with Argentina.

Regarding Argentine-Soviet relations, the Soviet ambassador stated that they are very good and we feel that prospects for developing relations between Argentina and the Soviet Union in different sectors such as the economy and culture are good. In remarks made to the Mar del Plata newspaper LA CAPITAL upon visiting a fish processing plant, he said that his country is contributing to energy projects, including the construction of hydroelectric plants. Ambassador Kvasov stated that the Soviet Union is cooperating with Argentina in building an electric plant in Bahia Blanca and a thermal power plant in Buenos Aires. We also have several other plans, he added, such as the construction of the Piedra del Aguila electric plant, and we feel that our cooperation will increase in the Middle Parana projects.

Kvasov denied the existence of a formal Soviet denunciation regarding Soviet citizens who disappeared during the military regime in Argentina.

PERON ALLEGEDLY POSTPONES RETURN; 'SCANDAL' SEEN

PY262100 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] (DYN) -- According to reliable sources, former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron has decided to postpone her return to Argentina until the end of March at least, partly because she could be summoned to testify in the case involving the "Triple A" rightwing terrorist organization. The sources said she was also influenced by a scandal concerning the Liaison Committee for the Return of Isabel Peron's use of the offices of a credit company which declared bankruptcy last week under suspicious circumstances. As a result of the scandal, every committee member except Humberto Romero, son of the party leader in Corrientes, has allegedly resigned.

The liaison committee yesterday explained that it merely happened to work in the offices of the Independencia credit company and that there was no connection between the committee and the allegedly fraudulent activities of the firm. The committee added that it was only "temporarily" based in the company's offices at Lima 187 and had been under the impression that their hosts were a firm of business consultants. The committee stressed that they always used the offices outside business hours but did not deny that committee member Jorge Aguilera, who recently resigned, had links with the firm's directors. The committee did deny, however, that two persons arrested on Wednesday night, one of whom claimed to be Mrs Peron's private secretary, had any connection with her. According to police sources, the two persons had collected five million dollars in the name of the committee. Mrs Peron's supporters disclosed that they are now renting office space in the Hotel Bauen.

BRITISH MP'S EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MARCH

PY271408 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1250 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (NA) -- Two British MP's will arrive in Argentina next month in what could be the first of a number of visits aimed at getting acquainted with the Argentine position on the Malvinas Islands negotiations with Great Britain. The legislators, who will arrive on 19 March and will stay until 23 March, are Cyril Townsend of the Conservative Party and George Foulkes of the Labour Party. They will be accompanied by Walter Little, an expert in Latin American affairs from the University of Liverpool, according to a report published by the English-language BUENOS AIRES HERALD. The report adds that an Argentine congressional source, who asked not to be identified, has reported that a number of visits of this type are planned for this year and that Argentine legislators might also visit Great Britain with the same purpose as their British counterparts.

FRENCH LEGISLATORS ARRIVE ON 2-DAY VISIT

PY272222 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1615 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (TELAM) -- Upon his arrival at Ezeiza airport today, French legislator (Andre Bellon) said that the objective of the visit of the French delegation is to get first-hand information about the real situation in Argentina. (Bellon) is heading a delegation of legislators from the French National Assembly that will meet with President Alfonsin and with their Argentine counterparts. The delegation, which will stay in Argentina for 2 days, is made up of (Bellon) (Socialist Party from Haute Province); (Manuel Escutia) (Socialist Party from the 28 Paris district); (Daniel Le Meur) (Communist Party from Aisne); and (Roland Bernard) (Socialist Party from (?Rhone)).

(Bellon) noted that ours is a symbolic visit and it marks the importance that French legislators give to the return of democracy to Argentina. After noting the strong ties of friendship that unite the Argentine and French peoples, he said that the Malvinas is a very delicate issue that he hoped will be solved soon through negotiations.

RETIRED GENERALS CHARGED WITH COUP PLANS

PY241600 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2235 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Cordoba, 23 Feb (TELAM) -- Emilio Mignone, the head of the Legal and Social Studies Center (CELS), today denounced the existence of an organization composed of sinister criminals like retired Generals Menendez, Bussi, Sasiain, Maradona, Santiago, and Martella, among others, who plan to stage a coup against the government in April.

Mignone, Nobel Prize Laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel, and a group of lawyers have sued 10 generals, 25 officers, and 24 civilians for human rights violations that took place at La Perla concentration camp, located on the highway connecting Cordoba and Carlos Paz. The defendants, among whom are Gen Luciano Menendez and Gen Antonio Bussi, were accused before Cordoba Federal Judge Gustavo Becerra Ferrer of premeditated and repeated deprivation of freedom; repeated illegal association; repeated homicide; repeated theft; and trespassing. Mignone stated that Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz has travelled to Buenos Aires to express his concern over the difficulties and consequences that may result from the investigation.

Generals Dismiss Charges

PY251711 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1225 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 25 Feb (NA) -- Eleven retired Army generals charged with violating human rights and planning a coup d'etat in April rejected the accusations today and they announced "legal actions" against their accusers. In a public declaration, the generals classified as "totally groundless" the charges leveled by leaders of human rights organizations. They added that "the charges were made by individuals who follow ideologies alien to the national interests and whose actions have caused hardships on and deaths among many Argentines."

For his part, Emilio Mignone, president of the Legal and Social Studies Center, has reiterated his charge that the group of generals who issued the declaration is threatening to stage a coup d'etat if people submit evidence on or testify in connection with abuses in the war against subversion.

AIR FORCE SOURCES SAY 'MINI-CRISIS' OVERCOME

PY271707 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1339 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (DYN) -- Air Force Training Commander Brigadier Alberto Cristobal Simari is not under house arrest, and shortly after 0730 today he resumed his normal duties at the Condor building, reliable Air Force sources revealed today. Simari, who also worked on Friday at the Air Force central offices in the Retiro area was the main protagonist of an argument that occurred over the weekend as a result of his personal views on the restructuring of the Armed Forces.

The "mini-crisis," which according to military sources has already been resolved, reportedly broke out when the high-ranking Air Force officer objected to the cancellation of some of the institution's plans, a view which was reportedly also shared by Defense Minister Raul Borrás. Simari had made the objection on 23 February, a few minutes before a talk that the head of the joint chiefs of staff, Julio Fernandez Torres, was going to give on the matter.

A top military source said that because of the attitude adopted by Air Force Chief of Staff Teodoro Guillermo Waldner, "there was a discussion but no measures were adopted against Simari." The sources said that Simari's removal from active service had been considered due to his "conceptual differences" with other officers. However, they said that the measure was not adopted because of the strong opposition of Waldner and of Operations Command Chief of Staff Ernesto Crespo.

Authorized Condor building sources reiterated today that "the incident is over" and that early this morning Simari had resumed "his normal daily activities at the head of his command."

CGT LEADERS MEET WITH ALFONSIN, SUBMIT MEMO

PY232130 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1716 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM) -- Jorge Triaca today said that President Raul Alfonsín has promised CGT [General Confederation of Labor] leaders that he will adopt a policy based on dialogue. Triaca (plastic manufacturing sector), who talked to reporters at the end of a meeting that four CGT leaders held with the president at Government House, remarked that he was confident that the Senate will unanimously pass the Union Reorganization Bill.

Ubal dini (brewery workers) said that the president had analyzed each of the points brought up in a memo submitted by the CGT, in which the labor organization underlined the problem of salaries. He said that Alfonsin told them that Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun denied that he had stated that the labor movement has been fascist and Nazi oriented since 1945. He reported that Alfonsin promised that he will give an official answer to the CGT demands next week.

According to Ubal dini, the labor leaders stressed the need to solve the problems of the poorer sectors. He added that the president said that efforts will be made to solve the socioeconomic problems and that, therefore, all sectors will be called upon to help mitigate the effects of the salary lag.

In this regard, Triaca noted that efforts are being made to implement a policy based on dialogue and that since problems are of an essentially socioeconomic nature, the solution will depend not only on salaries but also on various aspects of the economy. He said that it is necessary to take into account monetary growth, the increase in production, and, in general, everything dealing with the reactivation of the country. I believe that these topics were clearly put forth in the dialogue with Alfonsin, and I am sure the president will give the answers without passing over any problem, he said. Concerning the salary issue, he said that the president made a point of reiterating that the government has adopted a policy which clearly foresees regular salary readjustments.

Ubal dini announced that a CGT commission will submit a counterproposal for the Union Reorganization Bill to the Senate at 1600 today. He said that the social services, as they are foreseen by Law No 18,610, yielded the expected results, and that when the services were put in the hands of people outside the labor movements the need for the presence of labor representatives became evident. We maintain that our position on this issue has not changed and we therefore want the full enforcement of Law No 18,610, he said.

Ubal dini reported that Alfonsin clearly stated that all necessary action will be taken to overcome the conflicts over salary matters that have affected labor unions. He said that the president told him that Labor Minister Antonio Mucci will meet with insurance company workers union leader Jose Valle tomorrow to discuss the intervention in his union.

The meeting was attended by Saul Ubal dini (brewery workers), Jorge Triaca (plastic sector workers), Osvaldo Borda (rubber manufacturing sector), Ramon Baldassini (telecommunications and postal sector), Labor Minister Antonio Mucci, Labor Secretary Gabriel Martzkin, and presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez.

In the memo submitted to the president, the CGT asked that all the laws that the dictatorship enacted to repress the working class be abolished.

Concerning the salary situation, the CGT document noted that it is evident that during the dictatorship, the purchasing power of salaries shrank dramatically to levels which are below any decent standard, leading to the systematic impoverishment of the productive sectors. We are not asking the government for magical solutions, because we know there are none, but we do demand fair compensation for workers, the CGT document stated.

Concerning prices, the CGT document pointed out that the government must adopt an appropriate policy that could bring prices under control, especially in the case of family necessities.

The CGT memo also asked that the trials that are underway in connection with Resolution 1,050 be canceled, and that the indexation of mortgage debts arising from the purchase or construction of houses be ended.

The memo pointed out that the repayment of the foreign debt cannot and must not lead the people to starvation, and that the financial power of the dictatorship played an active role in the dismantling of the industrial sector and the impoverishment of the people. The memo admitted that the country is going through an unprecedented crisis and that workers are aware that there are no magical solutions.

ALSOGARAY SEES THREAT IN DEBT RENEGOTIATION

PY262125 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] (DYN) -- Union of the Democratic Centre (UCD) President and national Deputy Alvaro Alsogaray warned yesterday that "it is necessary for the government to set its position" regarding the repayment of the foreign debt, because "the existing doubts are already seriously damaging the country." He said this is proved by the rapid rise of the dollar exchange rate "and other less visible, but equally baleful incidents," and called for a public government statement on the issue so that the public can "either support the government...or denounce before the country the danger of a new catastrophe."

He criticized the alleged government strategy to renegotiate the debt, which he said Radical economist Daniel Larriqueta explained in a recent LA NACION article as offering creditors the option of being "allies or enemies." According to Alsogaray, if the creditors were to choose the latter option, Argentina would not repay its debt and "break links with the Western free world and Japan, and lean towards the Soviet Union and the third world, sealing off our economy at the same time." Alsogaray claimed that the essence of the plan presented by Larriqueta, whom he described as a close acquaintance of President Raul Alfonsin and the Radical party representative in France, was "backed by Central Bank Vice President Leopoldo Portnoy and by Radical Senator Juan Trilla."

Meanwhile, Christian Democrat leader Francisco Cerro slammed the government's refusal to join a "debtors-club" as the dismissal of the "brotherhood and solidarity" received from other Latin American countries during the war with Britain. He also called for a "new Marshall plan for Latin America."

SENATE ECONOMIC CRIMES COMMISSION FORMED

PY241605 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0023 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (NA) -- Last night the Senate established a commission that will be in charge of investigating "the responsibilities of those persons whose decisions or actions between 24 March 1976 and 10 December 1984 resulted in economic crimes that hindered national interests or contributed in some way to the serious deterioration of the national economy."

The commission will be made up of seven senators who must be appointed by Vice President Victor Martinez, who is the Senate president, at the suggestion of the six Senate blocs. The commission will have 30 days, as of the day it is established, to draft a work plan and to establish its budget. It will have another 180 days to submit a report on its findings.

AMENDMENTS TO CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

PY221555 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Feb 84 p 5

["Text" of amendments to the Code of Military Justice approved by Congress on 9 February]

[Text] Article One. For deeds committed after this law goes into effect, Article 108 of the Code of Military Justice is modified to read as follows:

Article 108. Military jurisdiction applies to essentially military crimes and misdeeds, which are defined as those which, because they affect the existence of the military institution, are provided for and punished by military laws exclusively.

In wartime military jurisdiction is extended to: a) Crimes and misdeeds that directly affect the rights of the state and individuals whenever they are committed by military personnel or employees in acts of duty or in places exclusively subject to military authority, such as fortified premises, theaters of operation, camps, forts, barracks, arsenals, hospitals, and other military installations, or during landings in or occupation of foreign territory whenever the crimes and misdeeds have not been judged by the authorities of said territory. b) Crimes perpetrated by personnel of the Armed Forces in carrying out procedures ordered by their military superiors, or requested by civilian authorities, or intended to assist civilian authorities. c) Crimes committed by retired military personnel or civilians in cases specifically provided for in this Code or in special laws. d) All other cases of penal violation expressly determined in this Code.

Article Two. The first paragraph of Article 109 of the Code of Military Justice is modified to read as follows:

Article 109. They are at all times subject to military jurisdiction when regarding essentially military crimes and disciplinary faults referred to in the previous Article.

Article Three. Item 7 of Article 109 and Article 133 of the Code of Military Justice, and Article 43 of Law 16970 are rescinded.

Article Four. Article 428 of the Code of Military Justice is replaced by this new article bearing the same number:

Article 428. There are three appeals possible against sentences by military courts:

I. Violation of the law. II. Review. III. To Federal Court.

Article Five. Article 429 of the Code of Military Justice is replaced by this new article bearing the same number:

I. Appeal for violation of the law

Article 429. This appeal can be filed against final sentences of court-martials which could not be appealed through point III of the previous Article, and this appeal is in order in two cases:

1) When the sentence violated the law; and 2) when the procedure has been violated.

Article Six. The following addition is made to Article 441 of the Code of Military Justice:

Article 441 bis. If the sentence subject to appellate review had been dictated by a Federal Appellate Court, this court will take the appeal under advisement following rules identical to those of the Supreme Council.

Article Seven. The following addition is made to Article 445 of the Code of Military Justice:

III. Appeal to the Federal Court

Article 445 bis:

Item 1. In peacetime, against definitive sentences of military courts regarding essentially military crimes, this appeal can be made to be processed through the Federal Appellate Court with jurisdiction at the site of the deed which prompted the initiation of the penal proceedings.

Item 2. The appeal will be in order:

a) In cases of nonobservance of the law, or its incorrect application.

b) In cases of nonobservance of the essential procedure which the law provides for the proceedings.

Nonobservance of the procedure provided by the law for the proceedings will apply particularly to those decisions which:

I. Limited the right of defense.

II. Disregarded evidence essential to the outcome of the case.

c) In cases in which evidence exists that could not be offered or produced for well-founded reasons.

Item 3. The appeal will be filed within 5 days, without need for stating its foundations, in a Military Court which will submit the case file without further action to the Federal Appellate Court within 48 hours.

Item 4. In possession of the case file, the Appellate Court will call for the participation of the parties and will grant to the indictee 5 days to designate a professional defense counsel upon the notification that the appeals court will otherwise do it ex officio.

In the same procedure, of which the indictee will be notified in writing, the Appellate Court will set the days when all parties must report to the court secretary for notification.

Within 10 days after the notification of the procedure referred to in the previous paragraph, the appellant will substantiate his appeal which will be passed on to the appellee for a 10-day period. In cases of several appeals, the time periods to make substantiations and rebuttals will be combined.

In the same briefs, the parties can request the reopening of the discovery period to include new facts or measures which for valid reasons could not be offered or mentioned to the Military Court.

Item 5. Within 5 days after completion of the procedures referred to in the previous item, or after the period for completing such procedures is over, the Appellate Court will rule on the applicability of the appeal. In the affirmative case, it will set a hearing within a period of no more than 30 days.

Item 6. That hearing will begin with an abridged statement of the substance of the appeal or with an amplification of the arguments by the parties.

If there is a request for reopening the discovery period and this reopening is in order, this will be done in the same hearing session.

If he requests it, the prosecuted will be heard on that occasion.

Item 7. The hearings shall be held according to the following procedural rules:

A. The hearing will be public, unless the court through a well-founded ruling resolves otherwise for moral or security reasons.

B. The hearing will be uninterrupted under penalty of nullity. Should it be necessary, the hearing will continue in the following days, and it can only be suspended for a maximum period of 10 days, if doing so is required to resolve incidental questions that cannot be resolved at once, to produce some evidence outside the premises where the hearing is being held, to produce some evidence requiring the presence of some witness, expert witness, or interpreter who is not present at the time, to allow for the absence of some judge or one of the parties due to sickness, or to allow the parties time to exercise their right of defense if a new issue appears in the case.

C. The judge presiding over the hearing will be designated by the court in each case. He will moderate the debate and will have police and disciplinary powers during the hearing.

D. With the authorization of the presiding judge, both the parties and the other court members will be able to freely question witnesses and expert witnesses.

The presiding judge will rule out suggestive, leading, or irrelevant questions, and he can sua sponte or, at the request of the parties, order that telegraphic or taped versions of the statements or parts thereof be incorporated into the case portfolio.

E. Before making statements, the witnesses cannot communicate among themselves or with other persons, and they will remain outside the hearing room.

F. After the evidence has been received, the parties will be heard on the merit of the evidence.

G. Once the hearing has been completed, the court secretary will write minutes of the hearing, containing at least the following information: a) place and date of the hearing, all recesses and continuances ordered; b) the identity of the judges, parties, witnesses, expert witnesses, or interpreters who participated in the hearing; c) the personal data of the indictee; d) the certification of the versions incorporated in the case portfolio as per part D; e) a summary of the substantiations or rebuttals by the parties; and, f) the signature of the judges, parties, and secretary who will have read the minutes.

Item 8. Once the parties have been heard on the merit of the evidence, the court in the same hearing session, after deliberating during a recess for that purpose, will resolve whether to uphold, nullify, or reverse the appealed sentence, and in the last two cases will dictate the new sentence which, if it is condemnatory, will contain the legal classification of the crime or crimes, and the penalty imposed.

The reading of the arguments for the sentence can be postponed until a new hearing to be scheduled at a time within the next 10 days.

The hearing must be attended by the prosecutor and the prosecuted party, whose attendance can be compelled if necessary. The defense counsel and the plaintiff will be notified of the sentence even if absent.

The sentence will now be unappealable, and Articles 468 and 469 of the Code will not be applicable.

Article 29 of the Penal Code will not be applicable. The Appellate Court will determine who shall defray the cost of the appeal.

Item 9. In order to resolve questions not provided for in this law, the Appellate Court will apply the Penal Trial Law as far as applicable, the regulations it is to lay down for the substantiation of appeals and, if necessary, the analogous legal principles established for court hearings in the Republic.

All time limits for trials at federal courts are counted in working days.

Article Eight. The following is added to Article 56 of the Code of Military Justice:

Chapter II: Obligation Common to All Representatives of Federal Justice.

Article 56 bis: The representatives of federal justice should make the appeal provided for in Article 445 bis against sentences handed down by the courts at which they serve.

The failure of the federal prosecutors to comply with this duty will estop the finality of the sentence for purposes of an appeal by the accusing party.

The prosecutor of the Appellate Court may desist from making an appeal, giving well-founded reasons.

Article Nine. The following is added to Article 100 of the Code of Military Justice:

Chapter VIII. The intervention of the aggrieved party.

Article 100 bis. The person directly injured through the crime and, in the case of homicide, or illegal detention not yet ended, his relatives in the degrees given in Article 440, may appear personally or through representatives before the Military Court, in writing, in order to: a) indicate means of evidence; and, b) request that the party involved be notified about the sentence or that the case has been taken to the Federal Appellate Court.

The person who has made the request referred to in clause b of the preceding paragraph may make the appeal provided for in Article 445 bis of this code. During the procedure at the court of law, he may intervene at any stage of the case, represented by a lawyer, but he may not ask that the procedure be retracted to stages already closed.

The participation of the injured party in the federal lawsuit interrupts the statute of limitations for a private civil lawsuit for damages.

Article Ten. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces will try, by peacetime summary procedure provided for in Articles 502 through 504 and conforming articles of the Code of Military Justice, the crimes committed before this law goes into effect, provided that:

1. The crimes can be charged to military personnel of the Armed Forces and to personnel of the security and police forces and prison personnel under the operational control of the Armed Forces and participating from 24 March 1976 until 26 September 1983 in the operations allegedly undertaken to suppress terrorism; and

2. The crimes are provided for in the Penal Law and the complementary laws appearing in items 2, 3, 4, or 5 of Article 108 of the earlier text of the Code of Military Justice.

It will not be necessary in these cases to order that an indictment be drawn up, and the trial will be initiated by accusation or by the council *sua sponte*.

In these cases, the attorney general will autonomously undertake the criminal action, unless he receives instructions to the contrary from the president of the nation or the defense minister.

In these cases, an appeal is in order to the appropriate Federal Appellate Court, with the same requirements, participants, and procedures established in Article 445 bis.

When 6 months have elapsed since the beginning of the trial, the Supreme Council will report, within the following 5 days, to the Federal Appellate Court on the reasons which have prevented its conclusion. The report will be shown to the parties so that they may make, within 3 days, the observations and petitions they deem appropriate, which will be submitted together with the report.

The Federal Appellate Court may remand the portfolio and set a date for finishing the process. If the case is extremely voluminous or complicated, the Appellate Court will set a date for a new report according to the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

If the Appellate Court becomes aware of unjustified delay or negligence in the handling of the case, it will take over the trial, whatever the stage of the proceedings.

Article Eleven. Article 34, item 5 of the Penal Code should be interpreted as laid down in Article 514 of the Code of Military Justice regarding deeds committed by the personnel mentioned in the preceding article, when they have acted without capacity of decision and obeyed orders or instructions contained in plans approved and supervised by the superior commands of the Armed Forces and by the Military Junta.

To this end it may be presumed, unless there is evidence to the contrary, that the deed was done without the possibility to ascertain whether the order received was legitimate except when atrocities or aberrations were committed.

Article Twelve. De facto Law No 22,971 is repealed, while the texts established in that law are maintained for Articles 235, 242, 252 bis, 314, 314 bis and 589 of the Code of Military Justice.

Article Thirteen. Notwithstanding the provisions of Law No 23,042, civilians sentenced by military courts may make appeals according to Article 445 bis within 60 days after the present law comes into force.

Article Fourteen. The present law becomes effective as soon as it is officially published.

Article Fifteen. It is so ordered.

U.S. AGREEMENTS 'DETRIMENTAL' TO COCA GROWERS

PY251510 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The Medical-Pharmaceutical Research Society is denouncing the fact that the U.S. Embassy and Hernan Siles Zuazo's government are executing agreements detrimental to the campesino, agreements which have been signed between the two governments. According to the statement, one of these agreements refers to the establishment of storage centers, as in Garcia Meza's time, with the goal of monopolizing the marketing and the legal processing of the coca crop. The coca growers warn that the crackdown is intended to force a reduction in the number of coca plantations with the final goal of completely wiping them out.

The agreements between the two governments provide for the hiring of campesino leaders, who will be turned into union representatives [relacionadores laborales] paid by the U.S. Embassy. The Medical-Pharmaceutical Research Society calls on all the campesinos who are growing coca to meet in (Unduavi) to review this matter.

NAVY RELEASES NEW GENERAL POSTINGS ORDER

PY232025 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 22 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] The Bolivian Navy has disclosed the general postings order, which ratifies the appointments of Rear Admirals Edwin Vargas Mendez and Jose Antonio Ona Costas as Navy commander and as Navy chief of staff respectively.

Here are the main appointments included in the general postings order:

Captain Juan del Carpio Bravo, under secretary for maritime, river, and lake interests.
Commander Mario Claude Blanco, director of the merchant navy.
Commander Miguel Alvaro Delgado, manager of the Bolivian Shipbuilding Enterprise.
Captain Luis Azurduy Zambrana, president of the Bolivian Shipping Lines.
Captain Orlando Villaroel Quinteros, member of the Supreme Military Justice Tribunal.
Captain Mario Lema Prieto, chief of Department I.
Commander Mario Montano Rios, chief of Department II.
Captain Douglas Entremadoiro, chief of Department III.
Captain Teodoro Nunez Rojas, chief of Department IV.
Lieutenant Commander Julio Jimenez Valdivia, general director of naval hydrography.
Lieutenant Commander Gaston Unzueta, director of public relations.
Commander Julio Molina Padilla, director of engineering and planning.
Captain Hernan Molina Enriquez, director general of training and institute [as published].
Captain Luis Arias Fredericksen, director of the Navy War School.
Captain Fernando Torres Alarcon, director of the Naval Military School.

URUGUAYAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PY272220 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1756 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 27 Feb (EFE) -- Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez this afternoon arrived in Brasilia on an official 2-day visit. Alvarez was welcomed at the military area of the Brasilia international airport by his Brazilian counterpart, Joao Figueiredo. The Uruguayan president was welcomed with the usual military honors with which all chiefs of state are received in Brazil. General Alvarez arrived in Brasilia with an official entourage made up of 15 persons, among whom are Uruguayan Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso and Economy and Finance Minister Alejandro Vegg-Villegas.

MALUF PRAISES ARMED FORCES ROLE IN POLITICS

PY271427 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Today in Curitiba Deputy Paulo Maluf, supporting the indirect election system to choose President Figueiredo's successor, said that had the opposition secured a majority in the Electoral College during the 1982 elections, they would not be demanding the reestablishment of direct elections, thus violating what is established by the federal Constitution. Maluf also praised the Armed Forces' role in the Brazilian political process by pointing out that they never interfered in the multiparty system and that they have always prevented national order from being disrupted.

MINISTER: MILITARY HAS NO POLITICAL INFLUENCE

PY241230 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] Campos -- Aeronautics Minister Jardim de Mattos Delio said yesterday in Campos, Rio de Janeiro State, that the military is having "a hell of a job" in returning power to civilians and that the military no longer have any influence on the political life of the nation. He added that the successor of President Joao Figueiredo will be elected by the Electoral College, although he admitted that if the Dante de Oliveira amendment is approved by Congress, the military will accept it, just as they accepted Leonel Brizola's victory in Rio de Janeiro in the 1982 elections.

POLL SHOWS PDS SUPPORTERS WANT DIRECT ELECTIONS

PY272227 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Most (73.3 percent) of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] constituents want to chose the next president of the nation through direct elections. This is the result of a FOLHA DE SAO PAULO survey in six Brazilian state capitals: Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Curitiba, and Salvador. Only 21 percent of the constituency that voted for PDS candidates in the elections held in November 1982 still believe in the Electoral College.

The PDS constituency of Rio Grande do Sul State is the strongest in favor of direct elections (95.2 percent), while the Curitiba PDS constituency is the least enthused (64.9 percent).

The information gathered in Sao Paulo shows that 93.6 percent of the PT [Workers Party] supporters want direct elections right now, followed by those who voted for the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] (87.5 percent) and by those of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] (82 percent), while 69.4 percent of the PDS constituency in Sao Paulo also favor direct elections.

The FOLHA DE SAO PAULO survey also shows that anticommunism can no longer be used successfully as a means to thwart the campaign for direct elections, as presidential candidates Salim Maluf and Mario Andreazza have tried to do.

OPPOSITION PARTIES OPPOSE FIRMENICH EXTRADITION

PY251245 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Invoking a long-standing Brazilian tradition of not granting extradition for political reasons, the opposition parties have voiced their opposition to the expulsion of Argentine Montonero leader Mario Firmenich.

ANGRA I SUPPLIES NUCLEAR ENERGY TO RIO

PY242020 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Feb 84 p 18

[Text] The homes, shops, and industries of Rio de Janeiro are already consuming electric energy from a nuclear source. Executives of the Angra I nuclear plant have reported that yesterday the plant reached 75 percent of its installed capacity and that it returned to its average 50 percent output at the end of the day. According to the chronogram, the plant today must again reach 75 percent of its capacity, estimated at 626 megawatts, at 1500, and 90 percent of its capacity at 2300. At 1900 yesterday, the plant was operating normally and it was hooked up to the electric energy distribution system of the Furnas Electric Company, which supplies all of the southeastern region, with a capacity of 270 megawatts. The Angra I activities were interrupted last week for testing.

INFLATION RATE UPSETS ALL PREDICTIONS

PY241315 Paris AFP in Spanish 1710 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Brazilian Finance Minister Ernane Galveas, usually very optimistic, gave up and admitted his failure: The battle against the inflation in February has been lost. According to the minister, the inflation rate in February could be between 10.5 and 13 percent (against 9.3 percent in January), which might represent an annual rate of 223.5 percent.

The minister's statement bodes ill for the future, since it is known that he has repeated for a year that inflation will drop within the next few months. Despite the austerity measures adopted by the end of 1983, which even included the abolishment of the salary indexing system, the government has not succeeded in curbing price increases. The government objective, included in four successive letters of intent addressed to the IMF, rose from 70 percent to more than 200 percent in 1983, upsetting all predictions of the Brazilian economic leaders.

Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, director of the most important Brazilian private group, the Votorantim company, has said that Brazil lacks both political and economic leadership.

REPORTAGE ON DEMONSTRATIONS IN PUNTA ARENAS

Pinochet Dismisses Protest

PY271254 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] President Pinochet dismissed the demonstration that a group of Marxist agitators tried to carry out in Punta Arenas. The incident took place during the traditional flag-raising ceremony at the local Plaza de Armas while the national anthem was being sung. After shouting subversive slogans, the rebels sought refuge in the Punta Arenas cathedral, where they remained for a few hours. They only left the cathedral under the Carabineros' protection, since a group of people indignant over the rebels' lack of respect for the national flag and anthem were waiting outside. Regional Intendant General Guillermo Toro Avila termed the incident shameful, while Minister Secretary General of the Presidency Alfonso Marquez de la Plata said that it was an offense against the fatherland's symbols.

When President Pinochet was asked about the incidents that took place during the patriotic ceremony, he said that it was only carried out by a very small group of youngsters, none more than 14 or 15 years old. The saddest thing about all this is that some priests, standing at the entrance of the cathedral, guided them, conducted them, and even shouted. Pinochet pointed out that all those present witnessed what happened, and then wondered what it all meant. Is it the church that is against the government?

Priest Denies Pinochet Charges

PY271257 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0331 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Punta Arenas, 26 Feb (EFE) -- Mateo Budinic, the parish priest of the Punta Arenas cathedral, has denied that the protest demonstrations against the military regime that took place this morning stemmed from the church. Father Budinic said in his early morning mass that "what has been reported and the official statements are all false. What happened is the result of the people's need to voice their feelings."

PDC Reacts to Demonstrations

PY272031 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has released a declaration on the events that took place in Punta Arenas yesterday. The PDC said: "The people are well aware of the events that took place in Punta Arenas when President Pinochet and several ministers visited. A peaceful demonstration held by Punta Arenas residents was brutally repressed. As a result of this incident, Jose Ruiz di Giorgio, a union leader and PDC member, was injured. He was arrested and is being held with PDC member (Carlos Maderich) and other people."

The PDC declaration goes on to say that "in view of this incident we express our protest and we convey our solidarity with our friends and comrades, and to all the people who were victims of this unjustified government violence." The declaration also says that events of this type show the real nature of the president's tours, which are full of ostentation and pageantry, and that this is incompatible with the backwardness, misery, and paralysis affecting many regions of the country. The declaration adds that during these tours it is usual to hear promises that are not fulfilled or solutions that are later labeled impractical by specialized organizations. The PDC declaration adds that, according to reliable information from Punta Arenas, about 1,000 conscripts in civilian clothes were sent to the city's parade ground to express support for General Pinochet and the other government officials.

In conclusion, the declaration says that under these conditions, the president's tours become provocative because people from different regions of the country are affected.

PINOCHET ON ECONOMY, PUNTA ARENAS EVENTS

PY272202 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] President Pinochet has reiterated that the government will maintain order at all costs. The chief of state met with more than 1,500 representatives of various activities in the 12th region who expressed their support for the president after the incidents that were staged at the Munoz (Gabero) Plaza of Punta Arenas by teenagers led by (Plaza Arroyes). At the meeting with regional representatives, President Pinochet expressed optimism regarding the recovery process with which this year began.

[Begin Pinochet recording] We are beginning a new year and we expect it will be favorable for the country, to surmount the difficulties we have been facing lately. The year 1984 will be a period of great achievements in the political arena, proceeding from the decisive steps that have already been taken during 1983 to complete an important phase of the (?institutionalization process). In the economic area, the year should be favorable, and the government should continue its efforts to reduce [word indistinct] and unemployment through the creation of new jobs. (The wishes of) the government to move ahead with the development process in all sectors of the country are shared by the government's tireless efforts. Against this majority, the negative action of a minority who tries to drive the country into chaos, just to satisfy its petty demagogic political ambitions, can do nothing. This is a minority who believes that the failure of 1973 can be transformed into a victory by poisoning the minds of the youth who did not know but live historical years. [as heard] [end recording]

Then the President referred to the acts of violence staged at the cathedral of Punta Arenas, where Marxist slogans were shouted while the national anthem was being played at the beginning of an official ceremony.

[Begin Pinochet recording] I could see that the majority of the demonstrators were youngsters from 15 to 25 years of age. They will not be able to do anything, however, in the face of the firm refusal of the citizenry to follow them in their [word indistinct] adventures of publicly inciting violence and then publicly deploring the results of violence which are attributed precisely to those who try to control and keep peace and order. Nothing will be achieved by those who propose halting activities that are indispensable for the population and bringing about confrontations with no regard for innocent victims. Nothing will be achieved by those who intend to follow (?worn out) slogans which have long been repudiated by the citizenry. Nothing will be achieved by those who have been searching since 1973 for a way to overthrow the government that saved the country from the holocaust [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The president then spoke of the existence of a national and international campaign to destabilize the government, a campaign supported by all those eager for revenge after the defeat they suffered 10 years ago. This campaign is mainly seeking to mobilize the youth, but the government will rigorously apply the law to confront and neutralize the promoters.

[Begin Pinochet recording] There are those who constantly complain about the lack of freedom of expression so that they can [words indistinct] the institutions with impunity [words indistinct]. Nothing will be accomplished by those who try to isolate the government from the international community by spreading slander about the fatherland abroad, thus making themselves accomplices of sectors of the international press which have distorted Chile's image abroad.

Lastly, nothing can be accomplished by those who dream of a possible rupture in the Armed Forces, and who encourage chaos by protecting terrorists, precisely at this time when our economy is experiencing a recovery, the consolidation of which demands unity among all Chileans, so that we can resume the road to progress providing more jobs, more education, and a better horizon for the inhabitants of this region. Nothing will be accomplished by attempting to spread violence, because the government, backed by the citizenry [words indistinct], (?will protect) social peace without hesitation. [end recording]

WELDING MACHINE BLAMED IN MINISTRY FIRE

PY271831 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1632 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Fire and explosions have occurred in the Public Works Ministry. We are now in contact with Radio Nacional's mobile unit, located at the ministry on Morande Street, in front of La Moneda Palace. (Mario Reine) reports: [Begin relay] At present 10 fire squads are working hard trying to reach the fire on the top floors of the Public Works Ministry. The 10 squads are continuing with their tasks and right now it has been requested that [words indistinct]. A Carabineros helicopter is overflying the Public Works Ministry. There are about 100 volunteer workers trying to control the fire, but unfortunately they lack the necessary equipment and water to control the fire on the higher floors. [end relay]

(Patricio Pawel) from mobile unit two reports: [Begin relay] Hundreds of persons have gathered on the first block of Morande Street to watch the fire squads working to control this fire, which is quite large and which started on the fifth floor of the Public Works Ministry. Hundreds of persons are witnessing the work being carried out, and the Carabineros have started to cordon off the area to prevent the curious from hindering the firemen's job. [end relay]

(Mario Reine) of mobile unit 1 reports: [Begin relay] According to information issued by the firemen, the fire in the ministry basement is partially under control while they are still struggling to put the fire out on the sixth and the top floor. [end relay]

(Patricio Pawel) reports: [Begin relay] Public Works Minister Bruno Sievert has just stated that the fire in the ministry is practically under control. The minister said that the fire had actually started in the ministry's mess, but that it had not affected the administrative departments. The minister also disclosed that there were people in the mess when the fire broke out, but that they were all safely evacuated, although this information has not been officially confirmed by the firemen. Regarding possible casualties, Minister Sievert said that he had no information, but that it was quite probable there were none. Right now the minister is being briefed by firemen about what is being done in the building. [end relay]

(Daniel Ortiz) from mobile unit three reports: [Begin relay] Right now the firemen have reached the inside of the eighth floor of the Public Works Ministry. The firemen are concentrating their attention on the last centers of fire that have left the ministry mess in a shambles. We are here with an employee of the ministry who helped us reach the various rooms of the building since 1245, which is approximately when the fire broke out. There are still a few centers of fire, but they are being controlled by the Santiago fire squad. Could you please tell us the time and where the fire started?

[Unidentified employee] The fire started in the mess on the fifth floor at approximately [word indistinct], seemingly by a spark or an explosion of a welding machine.

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES 1984 ECONOMIC PLAN

PY251741 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Feb 84 p C2

["Text" of 1984 economic program announced by Chilean Finance Minister Carlos Caceres in Santiago on 21 February]

[Text] I. Economic Program Objectives

- To continue the economic recovery.
- To increase employment and production.

The economic and financial program of the government for 1984 is principally aimed at continuing the economic recovery started in 1983, increasing employment and production, and consolidating the country's financial stability.

II. The Policies

This program is based on the following policies:

1. Foreign Exchange Policy:

- realistic exchange policy.
- Export growth by 7 percent.
- Trade surplus of \$1 billion.

Chile's economic growth over the short- and medium-term requires a realistic and adequate currency exchange rate to promote our exports, as well as to lead to effective substitution of imports. Therefore, the peso will continue to be devalued every month based on the internal inflation rate minus an estimated foreign inflation rate that is relevant for Chile.

The implementation of this policy permits the projection of a 7-percent export increase on the basis of an estimated slight and gradual increase in the price of copper over 1983 up to an average of 75 cents per pound. The estimated value of exports would surpass the estimated value of imports by approximately \$1 billion in 1984.

2. Fiscal policy:

- Public sector deficit of 4.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product [GDP].
- Increase of 21 percent in real investments by the centralized public sector.
- Increase of 75 percent in investments by public enterprises, mainly in the mining and energy sectors.

In order to continue making investments that have priority for the country's economic and social development, and to support the short-term recovery of the private sector, the economic program for 1984 provides for public expenditures that will result in an overall public deficit equivalent to 4.6 percent of the GDP. Under public expenditures there will be a 21-percent increase in real terms in investments by the centralized public sector, and a 75-percent increase in real terms in investments by public enterprises, mainly in mining and energy, which are foreign exchange-generating sectors. Investments by the centralized public sector will be substantially increased in the Housing Ministry and the Public Works Ministry, to amount to 70 percent of the central government's investments.

The plan of public expenditures is to alleviate the unemployment problem and to lay the basis for solid medium-term development.

The public deficit will be financed principally with foreign resources, thus permitting the larger portion of domestic savings to be used by the private sector.

This way a needed fiscal stimulus has been planned for economic recovery through adequate financing for the private sector. This, however, does not mean that an increased public sector deficit is to be adopted as a rule for future years, because once the private sector demand has recovered in a sustained manner, the public sector should restrict its need for financing so as not to increase the cost of credit for the private sector, or shrink the volume of credit available.

3. Monetary and Credit Policy

-- Increase real credit by 6 percent.

-- Maintain international reserves as a safeguard in the face of eventual fluctuations in international accounts.

Monetary projections for 1984 foresee an increase on the order of 6 percent in real terms in credit available from the financial system. This increase will be provided, approximately half and half, by the growth of international financial savings and the foreign indebtedness of the financial system.

This credit increase will be earmarked principally to finance programs of support for the private sector that were initiated in 1983. The Central Bank monetary program also contemplates a level of international reserves by the end of 1984 similar to that of December 1983, considering that the institution's internal credit increase will depend on the expansion of the monetary base and on foreign resources obtained from the foreign banking system.

The maintenance of the country's current level of foreign reserves represents a reasonable safeguard to meet both eventual fluctuations in international accounts and future import increases made necessary by the expected growth of the GDP.

4. Interest Rate Policy

To promote domestic savings and attract foreign capital, the economic authorities will continue the policy of promoting, in the context of a free market economy, interest rates that are both positive in real terms and consistent with international market rates. Likewise, they will continue for a prudent time the policy of "recommended rates" for short-term loans.

5. Foreign Financing Policy

- Favorable agreement with the IMF.
- Foreign bank credits for \$780 million.
- Foreign institution credits for \$740 million.
- Obtain foreign financing to balance the balance of payments.

The economic and financial program for 1984 foresees the annual balance of international accounts as given below:

exports	\$4.048 billion
imports	\$3.153 billion
trade surplus	\$ 995 million [as published]
foreign debt interest; financial services and transfers	\$2.245 billion
current account deficit	\$1.250 billion
amortizations which have not been refinanced	\$ 690 million
external resources needed	\$1.940 billion
Financing:	
foreign investment	\$ 160 million
credits from international organizations and other medium- and long-range credits	\$ 850 million
short-range credits	\$ 150 million
medium- and long-range credits from foreign commercial banks	\$ 180 million
total external financing	\$1.940 billion [as published]

The needed foreign capital for financing is obtained from international financial institutions and foreign commercial banks.

a. IMF

Chilean officials explained the economic program to the IMF mission headed by Ian Van Houten last November and January, a program which has already been explained in general terms on prior occasions. Later in January and a few days ago the finance minister and the president of the Central Bank evaluated the results of the mission with IMF Managing Director Jacques de Larosiere. Today the IMF executive director has officially reported his support for the program.

b. International Financial Organizations

International financial institutions such as the Eximbank, World Bank, IDB, the Commodity Credit Corporation, and other multilateral financial organizations have promised to provide new resources for \$740 million in 1984.

Last week Chilean economic officials held meetings with the top executives of these financial organizations to inform them of the development of the Chilean economy and to report on the different projects that have been submitted to these official and multilateral credit organizations. Because the country has not made a wise use of these organizations there are credits available which will permit the country to achieve the effective diversification of its foreign financial resources.

c. Foreign Banks

Last week economic officials held meetings with the consultative committee to ensure the financing of \$780 million needed from foreign banks. The country has obtained a favorable answer to this credit request because it has clearly fulfilled its commitments, and because it has carried out a responsible, well-balanced economic policy.

The conditions Chile obtained for negotiating with international banks show that the country's position for obtaining credits has improved. Interest rates will be LIBOR plus 1 and 3/4 percent and the prime rate plus 1 and 1/2 percent. These rates are substantially lower than the rates negotiated for 1983. The repayment period will be 9 years and the grace period 5 and 1/2 years. The 5/8 percent commission agreed upon for 1984 is 50 percent of the commission paid in 1983. The new \$780-million credit involves an increase of 6.9 percent in the exposure of the local banking system. This percentage compares very favorably with the 11.28 percent exposure linked to the \$1,350,000,000 credit obtained last year.

A smaller credit was requested this year in order to avoid the growth of the foreign debt beyond the level of what is strictly necessary. Both the IMF and foreign banks agree with this policy, because large amounts have to be paid to service the debt. On the other hand, the efforts that Chile has made to increase and diversify its exports have resulted in a trade surplus that has made it possible for the country to cover a larger portion of its financial needs with its own money.

d. Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

The BIS has decided to maintain the bridge loan approved in 1983 to provide Chile with the funds that will be necessary until the credits obtained from foreign banks become available.

III. Prospects

The above figures lead to the conclusion that the schedule that the economic leadership made for obtaining foreign credits in 1984 has been complied with from the standpoints of the size of the credits and the timeliness of their availability. The realistic policy that the government has decided to implement to reactivate the national economy has resulted in a favorable outcome of the negotiations recently held abroad, and in international support for the Chilean economic program.

Foreign banks decided to grant new credits to Chile on the basis of the better prospects of the Chilean economy, and the achievements attained in 1983, when the negative trends in the rates of economic growth, unemployment, and inflation were reversed. The 14.8-percent decline in the gross domestic product [GDP] in 1982, the prospects for inflation rates higher than 45 percent, and unemployment rates higher than 20 percent have been overcome. In the last quarter of 1983, the economy grew by 5.5 percent, the unemployment rate fell below 15 percent, and the inflation rate was less than 20 percent. The stability attained by mid-1983 and the growth that began in the last few months are major achievements that must be carefully handled so that they may persist and become stronger.

The agreements and credits that were negotiated will allow the government to attain its goals of a 4 to 5 percent GDP growth, reduced unemployment and inflation rates, more production, and more jobs. Growth will be more dynamic in some sectors.

The economic policy adopted to overcome the international financial crisis has been totally compatible with the availability of local and foreign financial resources, and it has focused on a comprehensive solution for the urgent problems of unemployment and indebtedness. The promotion of higher growth rates without the necessary financial resources inevitably leads to imbalances and frustrations that jeopardize growth and stability. Only through a consistent formulation and implementation of the economic policy, and only through solidarity and joint efforts by all sectors will it be possible to ensure the continuation of the economic recovery which, through the strengthening of the private sector, will improve the living standards of all Chileans.

RETAIL BUSINESSMEN MAY SUPPORT NATIONAL STRIKE

PY272230 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Rafael Cumsille, president of the Retail Business Federation, has said that retailers have not dismissed the idea of supporting a national strike, as an extreme measure, if their requests are not heard. Our Arica correspondent (Hector Merida) has the following report.

[Begin relay] Good afternoon, this is a special report for Radio Cooperativa from Arica. Rafael Cumsille, president of the Retail Business Federation, has not dismissed his federation supporting a national strike, as an extreme measure, if the requests of the 220,000 federation members are not heard. Cumsille reiterated criticisms of the government's economic policies, which he labeled unrealistic. He added that what the retailers need are forceful measures such as the cancellation of fines, taxes on consumer products, and interest on tax debt of its members. [end relay]

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND ACCEPTED -- The Thai Government has agreed to the appointment of Tomas Vasquez Flores as Chilean ambassador to Thailand. Vasquez will replace General Fernando Gonzalez Martinez, retired. [Excerpt] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 31 Jan 84 p 7 PY]

FOREIGN POLICY GENERAL DIRECTOR -- Ambassador Mario Barros yesterday was installed as the new foreign policy general director. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 1 Feb 84 p 12 PY]

BETANCUR URGES PEOPLE TO VOTE IN MARCH

PA270359 Paris AFP in Spanish 2229 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota, 26 Feb (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur today invited the Colombian people to vote in peace on 11 March 1984, guaranteed that the elections will be honest and free, and announced that anyone who violates the law will be punished. "I ask you to vote, to exercise this right without exception," the president said in a speech broadcast over a national radio and television hookup. Betancur added that "governments come and go, whether they do well, average, or poorly, but the citizens and the system that rules us remain, receiving the benefits or damage caused by severity or weakness in the democratic ritual of elections."

After repeating his appeal to vote in peace and freedom, the president gave high praise to the Armed Forces, who, he said, "are there protecting the impartiality of our democratic system."

"The country owes them gratitude; they do not need to be defended, because the price of their loyalty is the proud awareness that they are fulfilling their duty. But every Colombian citizen should stand up for them, and we in the government recognize, support, and encourage them in their patriotic mission."

Betancur reaffirmed that his great objective is peace, "which is achieved over difficult paths, because our poverty is the source of many problems, such as unemployment and the lack of resources, which in turn result in various types of protests."

He conceded that "we are experiencing a social upheaval of diverse characteristics because the people have discovered that they have rights that had been denied to them." But he criticized the civic strikes, saying that "it is dangerous to break the law, because then on what authority can you demand its protection?"

On this point Betancur emphasized: "What a week we have just lived through! At times it seemed that by completely forgetting the value of democracy, we were determined to besiege it, trying to topple it, subjecting it to excessive tests and dangers."

The president was referring to the strikes of government workers, civic strikes in several departments, including his native Antioquia, popular demonstrations, and "slow-down operations" in many public services.

In analyzing the new sales tax, he said that "with it we are going to do some of the things that the whole country is demanding in education, housing, public services, and security for the people. It is not a new tax, because it already existed. The difference is that now it will be collected more efficiently, to prevent evasion."

Betancur denied that the application of the tax would increase prices, and asked workers and housewives to report abuses. He promised to severely punish transgressors.

Referring to the recent reports of embezzlement and shortages in almost every government department, unofficially estimated at approximately 13 billion pesos (some \$140 million), Betancur said:

"We have to cover many fronts, all of them very serious, such as the great scandal of the embezzlement. Today I will tell you only one thing: It was never our desire to make an inventory of recriminations."

This has cost us dearly, because, as some people warned us, everything would be blamed on us, on this administration."

He pointed out that many of these frauds have been going on for years, although he emphasized that after his administration took office 19 months ago, others were discovered and reported, in spite "of which we remain besieged by crooks, and the struggle is long and difficult, with an anachronistic state that in this case is very much impeded in its defense by criminals on the inside."

In reaffirming his appeal for everyone to vote in the 11 March elections, Betancur concluded: "The results will be respected without hesitation. Change is in our hands, and not in the hands of anyone else. Let us all demonstrate this by voting for what we believe and what we want. Let us always be more free and more independent."

'SERIOUS INCIDENTS' END; PASTO RETURNS TO NORMAL

PA241625 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Pasto -- Commercial activities have resumed in Pasto after a strike the previous day by an inter-union committee, protesting terrible energy and communications services, as well as a lack of resources for the health and education sectors.

Activities resumed after serious incidents in the past few hours when overexcited demonstrators stoned several government and private buildings and seriously damaged five buses after burning another vehicle.

Police (?were trying) to determine the legal status of more than 200 people who were detained during the disturbances.

Activities in 10 other municipalities that had joined the strike also resumed. Inter-municipal and interdepartmental urban transportation service has slowly resumed, as has transportation service to Antonio Narino Airport, suspended early Wednesday when operators joined the protest.

The curfew and dry law were suspended at 0600, when the departmental government considered the extreme measures no longer justified.

FIVE POLITICAL LEADERS KILLED IN AMBUSH

PA260221 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0141 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota, 25 Feb (EFE) -- Four politicians and one government official died today, and four other persons were wounded in an attack in the vicinity of Abrego, North Santander Department, after a Conservative Party rally.

The police reported to EFE that unidentified individuals fired at the car in which former North Santander Department Assembly Deputy Carlos Julio Torrado Penaranda, three of his children, and five other persons were traveling.

The dead were identified as Alejandro and Mario Vergel Vacca, Mario and Jairo Torrado Navarro, and Mario Calderon, inspector from the Agrarian Credit Fund.

The wounded are the political leader Torrado Penaranda; his son Eduardo Torrado, auditor from the Abrego Comptroller's office; Ramon Vergel; and Eduardo Toro.

Ocana Province Police Chief Rafael Vargas Marino has left for Abrego with 40 policemen to search for the attackers.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM EUROPEAN TOUR

PA272143 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez returned to Quito yesterday after fulfilling the official mission of presenting to European government officials the decisions and resolutions approved in January at the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Conference held in this capital. Foreign Minister Valencia was satisfied with the results of his mission, having learned that the European governments are aware of the magnitude of the economic crisis affecting this region and are willing to deal with the countries of this continent to find a solution to the problem. Valencia visited Italy, the FRG, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Spain, and the EEC.

Former Ecuadoran President Galo Plaza Lasso is also expected to return at any time from Canada and the United States after fulfilling a similar mission. (Andres Crespo), secretary general of administration, will meet today in Tokyo, Japan, with Japanese Government officials, to whom he will present the Quito Declaration and plan of action approved by the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Conference.

PARIS CLUB AGREEABLE TO REFINANCING PROPOSAL

PA251911 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Pedro Pinto Rubianes, Ecuadoran finance and credit minister, has said that the response of all member countries on refinancing Ecuador's debt through the Paris Club has been completely favorable. Pinto said: In view this, we will now follow the usual procedure; that is, we will issue an executive decree authorizing the finance and credit minister or his representative to sign all agreements that have not yet been signed. The minister added: Our diplomatic representatives in the respective countries will sign those agreements. He also revealed that the under secretary of public credit, a Central Bank manager, and a member of the Defense Board are already in Washington making final contacts to refinance the debt through the Paris Club.

Ecuador is seeking approximately \$200 million through the Paris Club, which is a negotiation mechanism for refinancing the debt of suppliers and governments, as well as private debts that are guaranteed by government institutions.

ECUADOREANS' ARREST IN PERU REPORTEDLY UNTRUE

PA250441 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Rodrigo Valdez, the acting Ecuadoran foreign minister, has stated that relations between Ecuador and Peru could be described as normal. During a brief interview at Government Palace, Valdes said he could not describe the relations with Peru as close, but said that they are normal.

The acting foreign minister termed versions of the alleged recent arrest of Ecuadoreans on the Peruvian border as completely false.

ARGENTINA'S STORANI VISITS, DISCUSSES YACYRETA

PY240020 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Feb 84 p 11

[Text] Dr Conrado Storani, the Argentine secretary of energy, and Government Oil Deposits (YPF) President Dr Hector Fiorioli arrived yesterday and met with local officials. They analyzed possible areas of cooperation between Paraguay and Argentina in the areas of prospecting for hydrocarbons, hydroelectric energy, and interconnection with the Salta gas pipeline. Storani revealed that there were serious cases of mismanagement in the Yacyreta Binational Organization.

The visitors arrived at the local airport at 0940. Shortly afterward, they were received in separate audiences by Army General Alfredo Stroessner, the president of the Republic, and Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar. In the afternoon, the two Argentine officials met with engineer Enzo Debernardi, chairman of ANDE [National Electric Power Administration] and deputy director general of the Itaipu Binational Organization. At 0830 tomorrow, the two Argentine visitors are scheduled to meet with Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion. The meeting will also be attended by PETROPAR [Paraguayan Petroleum Corporation] President Dr Julio Cosme Gutierrez.

At the Centenario Club last night, Minister Ugarte Centurion hosted a reception honoring the official entourage of the secretary of energy, who is visiting the country at the invitation of the government.

Dr Storani said that during the Argentine military administration there were serious cases of mismanagement of Yacyreta affairs. "When I talk about the investigations that will be conducted in connection with Yacyreta, I am referring to the Argentine side. While in the opposition, we warned the military government that if we won the elections, as we did, we would conduct an investigation and remove Yacyreta officials. The investigation is underway, and as soon as the results are available, they will be submitted to the courts," the secretary of energy said. When asked whether the results of the investigation into cases of mismanagement will be made public, Storani answered affirmatively, adding that "the results and the evidence will be made known, because the constitutional government has nothing to hide." He also said that "delays have caused the cost of the project to rise."

Concerning the present status of the project, Storani said that "Yacyreta has no problems now; previous problems were solved and the project is now on its proper course. It is an unquestionable reality. Everything is in perfect order, new officials have been designated, and this is a constructive, immediate, and final stage. The project is being managed properly, normally, and in keeping with the law, as it should be under a constitutional government. Many laws were violated by military government leaders. In addition, we believe that the available funds are enough to guarantee implementation of the project."

Press circles have recently pointed out that the civil works have been delayed for 2 months. However, Storani yesterday said that "the delay began a long time ago, more than 2 years ago. Therefore, it is not possible to say that there is a 2-month delay now. We wanted to symbolize the beginning of the implementation of the project in December, when there was actually nothing and conditions were not appropriate to begin the work."

Storani also referred to the Corpus hydroelectric project. He stressed that "the studies for the implementation of the project are in their final stage. There is no decision on the matter yet." Concerning the priority treatment that the Argentine Government will give to Corpus, an Argentine-Paraguayan project, and to the Middle Parana, a local Argentine project, Storani pointed out that "they are two different projects."

Another topic that was on the secretary's agenda deals with new possibilities for electric interconnection between the two countries. In this regard, Storani admitted that Argentina has new interest in "again purchasing energy from some Paraguayan sources to supply Misiones Province." Paraguay sold energy to Argentina years ago, but the deal was canceled when the Acaray power plant experienced serious difficulties as a result of a drought that affected the Acaray River basin.

Storani then talked about the oil well discovered in Formosa Province, in the place known as "Palmar Largo," close to the Paraguayan border. "We have discovered a major well, but we do not yet know whether it is an oil deposit. Studies are being conducted. May God permit that it is a large deposit, since as it is close to the border it could also benefit Paraguay if it extends into its territory. This is what we expect. The government of President Alfonsin is very willing to promote cooperation and integration in these areas. The experience and technology that Argentina acquired through YPF may be helpful for Paraguay for the prospecting of a jointly owned deposit. We hope that 'Palmar Largo' will be shared by the two countries," the Argentine official said.

Dr Storani also made reference to a project that could be implemented in the long term. He discussed this project with Paraguayan officials. It is the extension of a gas pipeline "that we will build from Salta to Misiones through northern Argentina. We will erect a petrochemical center in Misiones in partnership with Brazil. This center will turn out fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and other products. There is a possibility of extending this gas pipe into Paraguay," the Argentine secretary of energy said. YPF President Hector Fiorioli accompanied Storani in all his meetings.

Storani's entourage is also made up of engineer Luis Grassi, the general adviser of the Energy Secretariat; Private Secretary Juan Storani; the YPF president's private secretary, Luis Fiorioli; and Dr Aldo Storani, the personal adviser of the secretary of energy.

Today, after holding a meeting with the industry minister, the delegation will visit the Itaipu hydroelectric plant. There they will end their stay in our country. From Alto Parana, Storani, Fiorioli, and their entourage will fly to Buenos Aires.

BELAUNDE ON DIALOGUE WITH SHINING PATH

PY271359 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] President Belaunde Terry today categorically rejected that his government is immoral, adding that an administration and a head of state that give signs of honesty cannot be classified as corrupt. The head of state made this and other statements during an impromptu press conference held at Puente de Piedra, in front of Government House.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, Dr Leandro Oliveira has stated that the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] will talk with the Shining Path if it comes to power in 1985. How do you view this possibility?

[Belaunde] I think it is very difficult to talk with an unidentified commando group. Where is that commando? Who are its leaders? Are its leaders dead or alive? It is difficult to find out who you must talk with.

[Reporter] Would there be a dialogue if the leaders identified themselves?

[Belaunde] Well, they [the APRA] could obviously do it, but under a responsible government dialogues with criminals should be held through the judicial branch.

[Reporter] Mr President, how much progress has the government made in the fight against terrorism?

[Belaunde] Well, progress has been made. In Ayacucho, there is obviously better control and the forces stationed there are no longer taken by surprise. The Army is well organized in the emergency area, and the joint command is operating under orders of General Huaman. [end recording]

BELAUNDE SAYS AGRARIAN REFORM NOT TO BE ANNULLED

PY271435 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] President Fernando Belaunde Terry has stated emphatically that the government has never thought of annulling the agrarian reform plan, adding that the government only intends to correct some errors committed in the transfer of land tenures. Referring to clearly political reports made by opposition newspapers, President Belaunde stressed that the reports are totally inaccurate. He added that the agrarian reform is aimed at increasing productivity and that this objective must be maintained. He also labeled as untimely the 72-hour stoppage announced by the Agrarian Confederation to protest the measures adopted in this field.

STUDENT KILLED IN UNIVERSITY DISORDERS

PY241505 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Agitators have again unleashed chaos and violence at San Marcos University by exploding a bomb, blocking streets, and commandeering vehicles in protest against the death of student (Juan Peque).

When the body of the student arrived at the university law school, the agitators created panic and confusion by exploding a bomb that damaged one of the rooms. They then went on to block Colonial Avenue, seizing three buses, forcing the passengers off with threats and insults, and making the drivers take them to the airport to say farewell to the dead student.

The police are acting with moderation to control the demonstration. The body of the student, who died in the disturbances at the university, was taken to Chiclayo.

AYACUCHO LAWYERS REPORT MANY POLICE ABUSES

PY231301 Paris AFP in Spanish 2049 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Lima, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Mario Cavalcanti, dean of the Ayacucho Bar Association, has denounced Peruvian police forces for abuses committed in the area affected by subversive violence, adding that peace will not prevail in this area until all abuses are eliminated.

Cavalcanti reported the massive extermination of communities, kidnappings, disappearances, thefts, and rapes committed by the police forces in the Peruvian Andean zone. He also mentioned an event in Silvia, Huanta, not reported until now in which 54 people died.

According to Cavalcanti, a confrontation took place last November near Silvia, north of Ayacucho, during which an Army captain and four soldiers were killed. He added that a Sinchis patrol (police antisubversive battalion) and a marine infantry unit arrived on the scene after the confrontation which resulted in the arrest of 300 people. From this group the forces separated 54 who were executed and then buried in a common grave.

During a press conference to report on the agreements reached during a recent National Bar Association Conference held in Huanco, 420 km northeast of Lima, Cavalcanti said that peace will not prevail in Ayacucho until the government authorities and the people are subjected to the mandate of the law.

Cavalcanti added that the Ayacucho Bar Association has documentary information about the cases of 254 missing persons in the area affected by subversive activities and that the Ayacucho prosecutor has received reports of 1,500 missing persons cases.

PRESIDENT LUSINCHI MAKES NATIONAL ADDRESS

PA252230 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Address to the nation by President Jaime Lusinchi, presumably from the Presidential Palace -- live]

[Excerpts] Venezuelans, Ladies and Gentlemen: I assumed the presidency of the Republic 3 weeks ago. From the very beginning, my cabinet and I have conducted a detailed analysis of Venezuela's complex economic situation. We have not wasted a single moment. We have worked under the premise that the recovery task is the responsibility of all citizens. Therefore, we have not discriminated against any given sector. We cannot place blame without first listening to all viewpoints. We have met with all sectors. We have weighed their opinions and have kept their interests in mind. It is not easy to seek agreement among supposedly antagonistic sectors. However, we have tried, seeking balanced solutions devoid of dangers to our progress and involving the participation of all sectors of our economic system. In our opinion, all sectors are important. We are all committed in this hour of great changes in our way of life and in our concept of duty and obligations to our fatherland.

For 20 years Venezuelan policy was directed toward diversifying the economy and overcoming dependence, creating with the income from our oil resources an industrial and agricultural basis to guarantee sustained and sovereign progress. We must stress that mistaken national policies distorted the normalcy of this process.

In the last few years unbridled government spending, irrational and often illegitimate debts, indiscriminate imports, the lack of control of foreign reserves, and the reduction in the oil income led to distrust, the lack of a definite policy, increasing unemployment, paralysis in our production system, low investment levels, damage to our country's international credit standing, and, finally, a substantial lowering of our standard of living. Despite this situation, decisions were not adopted in time to remedy the situation. On the contrary, the spending and consumption levels worsened our problems, and new debts were incurred.

Among the first steps planned to achieve economic recovery are guaranteeing the oil industry's self-sufficiency, reducing the fiscal budget, obtaining a normal balance of payments, and solving the problem of our domestic and foreign debt. An analysis of these problems allows us to be fully aware of the seriousness of the situation we have inherited and the challenge that we face.

The critical drop in the state's capacity to obtain loans means that we cannot and must not incur new loans, nor resort to account finagling such as transferring public utilities or revaluating gold to hide the existing deficit. Therefore, we need strict measures that will allow us to reduce the fiscal deficit.

Two years ago our international monetary reserves amounted to more than \$20 billion. Today, despite the establishment of currency exchange measures, an intentional delay in processing requests for foreign exchange -- which has jeopardized our country's flow of supplies -- and the moratorium on payment of our foreign debt, our country's international monetary reserves amount to only half that figure.

The only way we can overcome this crisis is by adopting measures that demand sacrifices by all of us. Each and every one of us must be fully aware of the responsibility, discipline, dedication to work, austerity, and patriotism needed to overcome this crisis.

This strategy aimed at recovery, in a short-range plan, is as follows:

- A. To establish an exchange system aimed at promoting production, generating new exports, diversifying our economy, restoring our balance of payments, and advancing in our quest for the establishment of a single exchange rate, thereby guaranteeing our flow of supplies and a sound increase in our agricultural and industrial production.
- B. To recover our oil industry's financial self-sufficiency so it can fulfill the investment programs necessary for sound and sure national development.
- C. To reduce the fiscal deficit by restricting unnecessary expenditures; to expand the state's power to generate resources; to achieve a more efficient tax collection system; and to rationalize public administration.
- D. To stimulate production and employment by increasing demand; to provide enough resources for priority areas at reasonable interest rates; to reorganize our financial system; and to meet our country's obligations on time.
- E. To control inflation and protect the workers' real salary by establishing reasonable prices according to the various sectors of national life, so that we may stimulate production without hurting our lower-income masses.
- F. To revamp our national production system; to reorient our public as well as private production systems according to long-term programs to guarantee their sustained development; and to progressively reduce our dependence on oil and our vulnerability in the face of factors alien to Latin America, with which we must promote trade.
- G. To reduce the public debt, restricting it to financing productive activities; and to reestablish the flow of foreign capital needed for the normal development [words indistinct].

In order to achieve these goals, we must reorganize the national economy, and we must also adopt important measures, which demand sacrifices of all sectors. We have tried to make these measures as acceptable as possible to the Venezuelan people. We have great faith in the success of this program. We hope that all Venezuelans will give us their understanding and support in order to tackle this difficult task, which involves all of us.

The measures that we are adopting are aimed at deep-rooted evils. As I said before, these measures have been carefully studied. Today I have the satisfaction of announcing that, to a great extent, these measures are the materialization of the social pact that I offered to correct past mistakes and to lead Venezuela to its destiny.

In the near future we will announce policies aimed at reforming the government's fiscal regime. The measures to be adopted are:

Currency exchange system: the establishment of the rate of 7.5 bolivars per dollar for all sales of currency is hereby authorized under strict exchange and import control. The Central Bank of Venezuela will accordingly provide the public as well as the private sector with the necessary exchange for future commercial and financial transactions.

The only exception -- in order to maintain the traditional balance of private and public enterprises engaged in servicing the debt -- will be that exchange will be furnished at the rate of 4.5 bolivars per dollar exclusively for the payment of capital. It is hereby understood that the servicing of interests effective 1 January 1984 must be covered at the established control rate of exchange of 7.5 bolivars per dollar.

In order for private enterprises to be allowed to obtain foreign exchange for capital as well as interest payments at the established rates, they must register their debts with the Differential Exchange Systems [RECADI]. They must also comply with Decree 1930, dated 26 March 1983, which states that during the first 2 years only interests will be provided, and that in the following 5 years equal yearly amounts will be provided to cover capital and interest.

With a strictly provisional nature, and with a deadline of 31 December 1985, foreign exchange will be provided at the rate of 4.3 bolivars per dollar to import food and medicine as established in the Finance Ministry resolution dated today. The same rate will apply to students whose contracts are registered with RECADI and who are still studying abroad and receiving passing grades.

Access to foreign exchange will be limited by the import quotas to be established by the executive branch. These quotas must be less than the import quotas of authorized products in 1982. Other import products not forbidden and nonregistered private foreign debt must resort to the free market to obtain their foreign exchange.

A rate of exchange of 6 bolivars per dollar is established for the sale and purchase of oil and steel. The respective decree issued today by the cabinet establishes all details regarding transactions of foreign exchange, according to the principles already announced.

Interest rates: From now on the Central Bank of Venezuela will exercise its authority to regulate interest rates in the national financial system. I have instructed the ministers and the members of the Central Bank's board of directors to approve today the fixing of interest rates according to the needs of economic recovery. Therefore, the present market rates, as well as their differentials, will be substantially lowered, particularly for low-income housing and the farm sector.

The price of fuel in the domestic market: The structuring of a regional system of fuel prices in the domestic market has been one of our country's needs for over a decade. However, Venezuela's financial and fiscal bonanza resulting from the steep rises in oil prices allowed this measure to be postponed. The time has come when we can no longer put it off. The low price of fuel in our country has greatly increased the demand throughout these 10 years, subtracting [words indistinct] earmarked for exports.

The most optimistic forecasts by qualified institutions and specialists indicate only a slight recovery in consumption and prices in the near future. According to these forecasts, it will be against the nation's and the oil industry's economic interests to maintain the present prices of oil byproducts in the domestic market.

A rational and moderate increase in the price of fuels is needed for the industry to better develop its activities and to furnish the funds Venezuela needs for its economic and social development. The system covers increases in the price of gasoline and other oil byproducts. These increases will be announced by the Energy and Mines Ministry. The new price structure for fuels is the result of a careful analysis of the national and international oil and energy situation. The increases fall within the general principles of the national energy plan that the government will implement.

Austerity measures: I have ordered the ministers to review all the programs in their offices and affiliated branches in order to achieve our goal of not increasing government bureaucracy. They have been ordered to reorient existing bureaucracy and to keep government expenses at a minimum. At a future cabinet meeting, I will issue instructions to be followed by all government employees for the correct handling of the nation's financial and human resources.

Price Policy: Price controls will be maintained, particularly for those products that will benefit from the special currency exchange rates of 4.3 bolivars per dollar. The entire price control system will be aimed at controlling inflation, guaranteeing the producer a profit that will enable him to program new investments. The social pact demands that the price policy be based on a flexible system of prices.

Domestic debt: The necessary legal procedures will be presented to Congress in order to regulate the existing debt with government contractors and suppliers. The necessary instruments will be issued to pay this debt. The debt to agricultural producers and small- and medium-sized enterprises will be handled as soon as possible. They will be paid off with the first additional revenues that the government obtains from the currency exchange measures.

Measures for the maintenance of the social balance: As a result of the social pact between labor and management, the following has been achieved:

A. The establishment of compensation for transportation expenses for 2 years. This compensation of 100 bolivars per month per worker will be paid by management. All workers earning less than 3,000 bolivars a month will be entitled to this compensation.

B. The establishment of a program for industrial mess halls.

C. An increase of 10 percent of the payroll existing on 31 January within the next 6 months.

D. The distribution by management of a cash dividend of not more than 20 percent of profit. This commitment is for a period of not less than 2 years.

E. The reduction of bonuses to managers of enterprises by at least 50 percent. This commitment is also for a period of not less than 2 years.

F. To present within a period of 90 days a program for buying native products and a substitution of imports.

G. The establishment of a joint program between the financial and the farm cattle sectors under government supervision to finance corn, cotton, sorghum, sugarcane, sesame, and peanuts.

H. The establishment of a joint mechanism leading to the better management of low-cost food for the poorer classes.

The government served as guarantor of this social pact. It will only grant the benefits derived from the currency exchange measures, prices, credits, exemptions, and tariff barriers to those enterprises that have complied with these commitments. According to our government program, the stimulation of the cattle farm sectors deserves our particular attention. In this respect we have adopted the following measures:

A. Prices will be regulated according to production costs. A commission has been created by the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, Finance, and Development, as well as (FEDEAGRO) [not further identified] and (CONFERURAL) [not further identified], to control said prices.

B. A bill will be sent to Congress to refinance the debts of agricultural producers with the financial sector. A minimum of 3 years will be granted for the first payments to be made. The private banks' share to the agricultural sector will be increased to 22.5 percent. This percentage will be distributed in the following way: 5.5 percent for financing agricultural industry and 17 percent for items to be determined by the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry. The Banking Supervision Office will establish a special account to confirm compliance with this resolution.

C. The price of fertilizers will be subsidized so that they may be available to the producer at a price equivalent to 50 percent of the current price. The price of farm products imported at the rate of 4.30 bolivars per dollar will be maintained for a maximum of 2 years. A commission made up by the Finance, Agriculture and Livestock, and Development Ministries, the peasant confederations, and groups of medium-sized producers will determine which sectors will be transferred to the 7-bolivars-per-dollar exchange rate.

D. The necessary measures will be issued for the farm cattle industry to buy the entire national production in those sectors in which import quotas have been authorized. The cattle farm industry will finance at least 25 percent of the crops in those sectors.

E. Preferential interest will be established for loans in the farm cattle sector. A bill for agricultural development will be sent to Congress to consolidate agricultural infrastructure such as drainage, highways, earth movement, and integral development of joint agro-industrial areas and enterprises.

All the measures that I have mentioned are part of a coherent and comprehensive program. Their compliance will be watched closely in view of the demanding goals that we have imposed upon ourselves. Their adoption and firm and systematic application and the implementation of incentive policies for industry, agriculture, construction, tourism, public maintenance, and vocational training will, I am sure, guarantee a promising future, devoid of lassitude, pilfering, and the decay of values caused by the crisis.

I am well aware that these measures will not be a magic formula, because there are no magic prescriptions that can take the place of people's efforts and conscience in their quest to advance through the pitfalls of history. We are faced with the challenge of a crisis and the country's comprehensive development.

This is a message that calls for reflection and effort. This is an urgent message of demands and commitments. At the same time, however, it is a message of trust in ourselves. We are our only chance. This is a message of hope. Let us make it come true. Thank you.

OPPOSITION SCORES LUSINCHI'S ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA270136 Paris AFP in Spanish 2213 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Caracas, 26 Feb (AFP) -- Venezuela's leftist parties, as well as the largest opposition party, the Social Democrats, today criticized the package of economic measures announced by President Jaime Lusinchi last Friday.

Pompeyo Marquez, senator of the Movement Toward Socialism, MAS, said that "the measures are not beneficial for the country. Therefore, our party was not represented at Miraflores Palace as a sign of protest."

Jesus Angel Paz Calarraga, secretary general of the People's Electoral Movement, MEP, said that the measures "are a victory for the business sector and that this week the MEP will issue a document analyzing the package of economic measures made public last Friday."

Radames Larrazabal, leader of the Communist Party of Venezuela, PCV, said that the measures "are monetary, inflationary, and were imposed by the IMF. These measures shore up the workers and strangle the economy."

Eduardo Semtei and Edgar Paredes Pisani, leaders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, released a written statement claiming that "apparently, the social pact functioned in favor of just one side. One cannot compare the sacrifice of the businessmen with that of the popular sector."

Eduardo Fernandez, secretary general of the Social Christian COPEI party, said that the president's measures "are incomplete, and therefore we must wait for new announcements. Nevertheless, I found 2 positive and 12 negative aspects in the speech delivered last Friday in Miraflores Palace."

BRIEFS

MAS GOVERNING BODIES -- The Movement Toward Socialism, MAS, has installed three provisional governing bodies that will control the party until next September, when the party's national convention will be held. The three governing bodies are the Political Committee, the Reorganization and Convention Committee, and the Municipal Electoral Committee. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Feb 84 p D-2 PA]

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS -- Defense Minister Humberto Alcalde Alvarez announced the following military appointments on 3 February: Rear Admiral Pulido Villafane, assistant inspector of the Armed Forces; Brigadier General Alberto Muller Rojas, comptroller general of the Armed Forces; Division General Rafael Vale Huerta, military representative at the United Nations; Brigadier General Alsin Sanchez, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, in Maracay; Rear Admiral Alfredo Landa Saa, education director for the Ministry of Defense; Brigadier General Agustin Medina Torcat, inspector general of the Armed Forces; and Brigadier General Jose Humberto Rivas, commander of the strategic command. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Feb 84 p 3 PA]

NEW ARMY APPOINTMENTS -- The following appointments have been announced by the Army: Brigadier General Omar Rafael Trias Cubillan, director of Army Intelligence; Colonel Eduardo Serrano Perez, director of Army Public Relations; and Brigadier General Jose Humberto Vivas, director general of the Defense Ministry. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Feb 84 p 3 PA]

MILITARY HOUSEHOLD ASSUMES OFFICE -- During a ceremony held yesterday, the Venezuelan Military Household assumed office. The new members are: Brigade General Victor Higuera Castellanos, chief; Captain Freddy Gonzalez Echenagucia, deputy chief; and Colonel Fernando Ochoa Antich, assistant. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 5 Feb 84 p 1-13 PA]

PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID PLANS SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP

FL252044 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1555 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- In a message to the Mexican Congress, President De la Madrid has stated that a new focus of cooperation and concerted action against economic and political, and regional and international problems is taking shape in Latin America. De la Madrid stressed that the new stage of Latin American development is seeking a solution to the crisis in collective economic security. In his message, the Mexican president requested the authorization of the national legislature to take his first trip abroad since taking office in December 1982.

In an explanation of his reasoning, De la Madrid stated that the new stage began to manifest itself immediately after the South Atlantic war (the Malvinas Islands war) and the explosion of the Latin American foreign debt. The first political results, growing out of diplomatic relations among the Latin American countries, were achieved in the conclusions of the Latin American Economic Conference held in Quito, Ecuador, in early 1984.

If Congress gives its approval today, 25 February, De la Madrid will begin his trip to Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina on 26 March and conclude it 2 weeks later. De la Madrid pointed out that the democratic part of the regional map has grown considerably. In the last 4 years, most South American military dictatorships have disappeared, surviving in only three countries.

De la Madrid's trip is very important because in late 1983, after 10 years of military dictatorship, Argentina returned to civilian government. And Venezuela, which with Colombia, Panama, and Mexico, belongs to the Contadora Group, has just elected a new president.

The Mexican president said that his trip will give continuity to Mexican foreign policy, stimulate the strategic value of joint Latin American actions, and strengthen and update the ties of bilateral cooperation.

PRESIDENT STRESSES MILITARY'S TIES TO REGIME

PA242200 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] The Republic grows stronger through the work carried out by the Armed Forces, which are a pillar of Mexico's institutional life. President Miguel de la Madrid asserted this yesterday as he was presiding over the commemoration of Army Day.

The presidential message was read by General Carlos Humberto Bermudez Davila, chief of the Presidential Staff. In the statement, the president expressed his acknowledgement of the integrity, upright attitude, and spirit of sacrifice that characterize the Armed Forces. "Your nationalistic performance extols the national life."

The presidential message stressed that the example of these values has fostered a climate marked by peace, tranquillity, and security, all of which are indispensable to the country's harmonious and balanced development.

Further on, he noted that despite the uncertainty that marked the beginning of the present administration and the strict economic discipline that became necessary, the period that has elapsed might, in the future, be identified as a cornerstone of our current history.

Trial Period

"Both the Army and the Air Force, which are fundamental elements of the state's political structure, shared with it and with society a difficult trial period out of which they emerged strengthened, with a spirit of greater social solidarity, and with greater civic awareness," he went on.

At this event, President de la Madrid received from National Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Gardoqui the saber of command that symbolizes the Armed Forces' devotion and loyalty to the institutions forged by the people.

For his part, General Jose Angel Garcia Elizalde asserted on behalf of the Armed Forces that the revolutionary governments have transformed the country.

We Are Not Letting the Guard Down

He added that in an interdependent and agitated world, "we have not let our guard down, and we will continue to defend our most cherished historic accomplishments, in full identification with the people."

He later reiterated the loyalty of both the Army and Air Force to the president of the Republic, warning that "no one will seize from us victory over adversity."

SEPULVEDA, COLOMBIA'S LLOREDA HOLD TALKS

FL280036 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1832 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The foreign ministers of Mexico and Colombia, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, respectively, have discussed preparations for the visit that President Miguel de la Madrid will pay to that South American country.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat announced that the visit to this capital by Lloreda Caicedo was for that purpose, and that at the same time the importance of cooperation between the two countries and efforts to strengthen that cooperation still more had been discussed. Also, the desire to strengthen ties in the economic and trade fields, in scientific and technical cooperation, and in cultural exchanges had been stressed.

Regarding the talks Lloreda Caicedo held with President De la Madrid, it has been announced that various matters of bilateral interest and the North American situation as well as the Contadora Group's efforts to pacify the Central American area were discussed.

Depart for Contadora Meeting

FL290114 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0030 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Beginning tomorrow, the Contadora Group will meet in Panama to evaluate the internal reconciliation efforts of Central American countries which will contribute to removing the threat of war from the area, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor asserted today. Interviewed at the capital's airport prior to departure for Panama accompanied by Colombian Foreign Secretary Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, who today concluded a 3-day visit to Mexico, Sepulveda Amor mentioned that progress in electoral mechanisms in countries such as Nicaragua will also be examined.

Attending the Panama meeting will be the new Venezuelan foreign minister, Isidoro Morales, and the members of the committees on security, economic and social development, and political affairs, which will submit a work plan on urgent actions that should be developed in the Central American region which is affected by political violence, Sepulveda stated.

Lloreda Caicedo stated that even though the Contadora Group has attained the withdrawal of some advisers from Nicaragua, a comprehensive regional agreement to take care of these matters should be finalized because, he warned, it is unlikely that the individual countries would be able to do it on their own. If a comprehensive agreement is reached, a mechanism could be established to attain the gradual exit of advisers along with the reduction of military forces but, he stressed, it will all depend on the desire of those involved, since the Contadora Group members are only negotiators.

Referring to Lloreda Caicedo's visit, Sepulveda Amor termed it highly productive, inasmuch as domestic policies had been discussed and bilateral matters had been examined.

Finally, Sepulveda Amor noted that the topic of the Bogota meeting next March of the presidents of Mexico and Colombia, Miguel de la Madrid and Belisario Betancur, respectively, had been discussed.

POLISH DELEGATION DISCUSSES CONTADORA, TRADE

PA260110 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 22 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by Jose Luis Castillejos A.]

[Excerpt] A Polish parliamentary [Sejm] delegation yesterday agreed that the intervention of the Contadora Group has prevented an armed conflict in Central America. The initiatives of the group are the most advanced, the most constructive, and the most promising.

Sejm Speaker Stanislaw Gucwa expressed satisfaction at the normalization of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Poland. "There are areas of cooperation, such as on the issues of nuclear arms, disarmament, and the development of international cooperation in the establishment of a new economic order."

The Sejm delegation met yesterday at the Foreign Affairs Secretariat with Mexican legislators headed by Deputy Luis Danton Rodriguez, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies. Gucwa said that this meeting opened the path for closer and more intense cooperation. "We hope that the next joint meeting on Mexican-Polish cooperation, to be held the first week of April, will be another step in the development of trade and economic relations between our two countries."

Poland is interested in discussing the refinancing of the two nations' foreign debt. The problems are similar, and negotiations should therefore be held with the banks of the countries to which money is owed.

Cultural cooperation with Mexico is of special interest. Therefore, Poland is interested in its further development, in spite of the difficulties that exist now, he said. He added that Poland is willing to increase the number of scholarships for Mexicans. There are also plans for joint scientific research by specialists of both countries.

SIDERMEX SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH USSR

FL251942 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0120 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Iron and Steel Enterprise (SIDERMEX) today signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with the Soviet organization Promsyrre-import in which the construction, reconstruction, and enlargement of foundries and mining plants are included.

SIDERMEX reported that its director, Miguel Alesio Robles signed the agreement for Mexico and that Mr Niury Nikolayevich [name as received] signed for the foreign organization.

SIDERMEX stressed the importance of the Soviet iron and steel industry, stating that it is one of the first in production, producing 160 million tons in 1983.

USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Ivanov stated that his country has the necessary experience, equipment, and technology to substantially increase the production of Mexican iron and steel enterprises. He stated that the USSR is interested in buying Mexican iron and steel products, principally special pipes used by the petroleum industry.

The Soviet official said that his government does not desire to withdraw foreign exchange from Mexico but is interested in products that can be included in bilateral trade.

SIDERMEX announced that it will soon export 750,000 tons of iron and steel products to 14 nations, but that final agreement for the sale of 400,000 tons to the United States has not yet been reached.

PEMEX SIGNS FR275-MILLION CREDIT AGREEMENT

FL241800 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex today reported that it had signed in Paris, France, the usage agreements [convenios de utilizacion] of the Mexican-French financial protocol, which provides a loan of Fr275 million to Pemex. Pemex stated that through these agreements, which were negotiated by the two countries in November 1983, it will obtain credit on the best possible interest and repayment terms; the credit will be used for the financing of priority oil sector projects.

Pemex stated that 30 percent of the credit was granted by Credit Nationale as a 30-year loan with a 10-year grace period and an interest rate of 2 percent. The remaining 70 percent was lent by a group of French commercial banks as a 10-year loan with a fixed interest rate of 10 percent. The Societe Generale acted as leader for the second portion of the loan; the Bank of Paris, Netherlands [los Paises Bajos], and Credit Lyonnais were co-leaders.

The Pemex representative in France signed the contracts for Pemex.

Pemex added that the interest rates and repayment terms are appropriate for the projects to be financed and that signing the agreements has established an important precedent for bilateral credit negotiations.

BRIEFS

HOG CHOLERA -- Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, 31 Jan -- Nearly 250,000 pigs have died in the last 3 months of hog cholera in this area, producing losses estimated at 750 million pesos. The disease was first discovered in the highlands of Jalisco in November last year, but due to a lack of medicine, no countering measures were taken right away.

[Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 1 Feb 84 p 32-A PA]

NORIEGA LEAVES FOR U.S., EUROPE ON MISSION

PA242106 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Feb 84 p A-1

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces, early this morning left for the United States and Europe on an official mission. It has not been disclosed when he will return. Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of the General Staff, replaces Noriega as head of the National Defense Forces in the interim.

BARLETTA GAINS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

Perez Concedes Nomination

PA251710 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1649 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Panama City, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Ernesto Perez Balladares, former secretary general of the Torrijist Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), today declined a presidential nomination in favor of economist Nicolas Ardito Barletta, who has been nominated by a four-party coalition.

According to sources close to the PRD, Perez Balladares, who began his presidential campaign several months ago, called on his fellow party members to support Barletta, a former vice president of the World Bank and, like Balladares, a former government minister under Omar Torrijos.

According to the same sources, Perez declined the nomination a few moments before the opening of the national PRD convention, during which delegates from all over the country will officially nominate their presidential candidate, in this case Barletta, who has the support of the PRD leadership.

Barletta is also being nominated by the Liberal, Republican, and Agrarian Labor Parties, which are holding their national conventions in various parts of the country today to proclaim their candidates for president and vice president of the Republic. The four parties are scheduled to hold a political rally in Santa Ana Plaza, in the old part of the city, this afternoon.

Barletta Delivers Speech

PA261611 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2203 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Speech delivered by Nicolas Ardito Barletta, presidential candidate for the Panamanian National Democratic Union, at a political rally held in the Santa Ana Plaza in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] I pledge to honor the trust that you have placed in me by nominating me as your candidate for the presidency of the Republic. The commitment is stronger and the honor is greater because the nomination has come from four political parties, each having genuine popular roots: the Labor Party [applause], the Liberal Party [applause], the Republican Party [applause], and the glorious Democratic Revolutionary Party [applause, shouting of slogans]. On 6 May, we have an appointment with victory.

Our platform contains four basic tasks: First, to strengthen faith and confidence in the democratic system of government, which Panamanians prefer. bringing the process of democratizing our political life to an effective conclusion.

Second, to strengthen and modernize our public institutions, to guarantee the stability of public officials, and to eliminate corruption. Third, to undertake the necessary tasks for the overall development of our country by providing jobs for all Panamanians. We will produce the jobs that our people need. [applause] We will create those jobs by promoting the dynamic growth of our economy, and in this way effectively solve our social problems. Fourth, to implement a foreign policy that promotes our national interests and that will eliminate threats to our peace and tranquillity, because our people want to live in peace, to progress, and to provide a good future for our children.

In order to attain our government's primary goals, we propose, first of all, to set the engines of our economy in motion, because it is only by producing more wealth that we can offer real solutions to the concrete problems that affect all Panamanians. To this end, we pledge to attract private capital to productive activities, and to restore confidence by establishing clear rules of the game, in agreement with businessmen and workers, who will receive due benefits for their labor.

We will have to produce more; we will have to export more; and we will have to secure the necessary resources to improve our standard of living, increase the well-being of the majority, and provide employment for our people. We will have to support both urban and rural producers. Panamanian people, we will wage a decisive battle against unemployment and poverty. We will offer our youth new ideals, good examples, better education, and real participation in the solution of Panama's problems, and we will create the thousands of jobs that they so urgently need. We intend to solve the great problem of popular housing, so that each and every Panamanian may have a decent place under the sun. We will improve public transportation, and we will struggle to improve both urban and rural living conditions. We firmly intend to improve the quality of education and to extend health and sanitation services to all of our fellow countrymen.

In foreign relations, we will devote all of our efforts to maintaining peace, contributing to a peaceful solution of the tragic problems of our neighboring Central American countries with the cooperation of all Panamanians and, especially and above all, preventing those problems from reaching our shores, because our people want peace, which we will attain in national unity, working together, resolving our differences, and moving forward toward national prosperity.

I say this to you, dear people of Panama, vote for me and I will give you jobs. [applause] Vote for me and I will provide low-cost housing for you and your children. [applause] Vote for me and we will provide inspiration to all the country's productive forces. [applause] Give me your vote and I will dedicate all of my energy and sacrifices to continue to enhance the profound dignity of the Panamanian people. [applause] Vote for me and I will continue to work with all Panamanians to maintain peace and unity, to give our youth what they require and to continue to strengthen the dignity of the Panamanian woman in her important role within the country's political life. Vote for me and you will see the most untiring worker that Panamanian history has ever seen, because I will give myself to you entirely. [applause, shouting]

PFNP Pledges Support

PA272012 Panama City YA in Spanish 23 Feb 84 p 9

[Text] In a communique issued to the country, the People's Nationalist Federal Party, PFNP, which is headed by Honorio Quesada, has announced that it has resolved to support, unconditionally and firmly, the presidential slate headed by Nicolas Ardito Barletta, which has been proclaimed by the National Democratic Union, UNADE.

The PFNP communique says that the party will "reopen its registration books to obtain, through an Electoral Tribunal decree, early and certain recognition as specified in Article 71 of the Electoral Code; therefore, it is issuing a call to all party sympathizers nationwide."

The communique concludes that "we will join the UNADE electoral campaign led by Nicolas Ardito Barletta."

Panamenist Party Gives Support

PA272017 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Luis Carlos Perez]

[Text] A communique issued yesterday afternoon by the leaders of the Panamenist Party expressed support for the presidential candidacy of Nicolas Ardito Barletta. The Panamenist Party, which is headed by Luis Gaspar Suarez, has thus joined the group of political parties that make up the National Democratic Union (UNADE).

CRITICA has learned that the Labor, Liberal, Republican, and Democratic Revolutionary Parties sent a note to the Panamenist Party inviting it to join the alliance, which is aimed at "perfecting the democratic system, achieving an economic recovery, and enhancing our people's welfare." The UNADE letter to the Panamenist Party was signed by Carlos Eleta A., Jorge Riba, Jose B. Cardenas, and Berta Torrijos de Arosemena.

Yesterday, prominent Panamenist Party leader Hector E. Zavala Bernal withdrew his party's suit to demand the annulment of signatures that are repeated in the registration books of the Republican Party, the People's Action Party (PAPO), FRAMPO (Popular Broad Front Party), the People's Party, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Popular Nationalist Party (PNP).

Zavala Bernal said that this withdrawal should be understood as a contribution by his party to the current democratic process that will culminate with the upcoming presidential election slated for 6 May and 3 June 1984.

COMMUNISTS NAME DEL CID PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA262303 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Feb 84 p 8-D

[Report by Vladimir Sandoval]

[Text] The Central Committee of the People's Party (communist) will not support the official election ticket headed by Nicolas Ardito Barletta, LA PRENSA learned yesterday from an official source of that political organization.

The source said that the decision was based on the fact that the progovernment sectors did not take the public and private workers and employees into consideration when making their decision.

The People's Party has selected Dr Carlos Cesar del Cid as its candidate for the presidency of the Republic.

The People's Party Central Committee was analyzing the proposal to nominate Dr Carlos del Cid yesterday. The proposal will be submitted at the party's electoral convention, to be held on the afternoon of 26 February at the House of the Journalist.

CONTADORA WORK COMMITTEES, TECHNICAL GROUP MEET

PA272059 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1603 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Three work committees and the Contadora technical group met at about 1045 this morning in the El Panama Hotel to start this discussions and to prepare a schedule of activities and tasks by 29 February in order to submit a final report on political, military security, and social and economic matters no later than 30 April.

This final report will appear as a general peace package, which the Central American governments are expected to sign.

The work committees set up in Panama City on 31 January consist of at least two representatives of the five Central American countries and of the four Contadora Group countries.

Political, security, and military affairs committees, as well as social and economic committee, include 62 members.

EL SALVADORJUDGE REJECTS SUBPOENAS IN TRIAL FOR NUNS' MURDER

PA272227 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Cesar Augusto Canas, defense attorney for three of the five national guardsmen indicted for the murder of four U.S. churchwomen, will receive notification from Judge (Bernardo Rusda Murcia) of Zacatecoluca Penal Court indicating that subpoenas for Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador; Jose Guillermo Garcia, former Salvadoran defense minister; Salvadoran Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova; and Jose Napoleon Duarte and Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, former members of the Revolutionary Government Junta, will not be issued.

Defense attorney Canas has threatened to resign if his petition is rejected. Canas said that this trial is more political than anything else, but that as a lawyer he must see that the law prevails. He said this yesterday, Sunday, on learning of the Zacatecoluca Penal Court's decision.

CAPT EDUARDO AVILA CONTINUES HUNGER STRIKE

PA280247 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Feb 84 pp 10, 48

[Excerpt] Relatives of Captain Eduardo Avila have reported that he has been on a hunger strike for the past 18 days, that he has lost 30 pounds, and that he refuses to take any food or medicine.

They added that Capt Avila was arrested on 18 December 1983, by order of the Defense Ministry. He was accused of "disobedience and perjury," his relatives said.

According to them, his "crime" was to have said that he was an "employee" and to have given his military rank as captain, which he did not try to conceal, despite the risk he was taking if he were ever caught in a guerrilla roadblock.

His relatives are also complaining that he was being tried twice for the same crime, and they are planning to take Capt Avila's case to the Legislative Assembly, accusing the defense minister of such violations.

They said that Capt Avila was arrested because of a U.S.-instigated investigation in relation to the murder of two U.S. lawyers and Rodolfo Viera Lizama, who at the time of the crime, January 1981, was president of the Agrarian Transformation Institute, ISTA.

ARENA, PAISA, PSP COALITION DEADLINE EXPIRES

PA280149 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] The deadline for registering the coalition of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAISA, and the Salvadoran Popular Party, PSP, officially expired at 2400 yesterday when the representatives of the parties failed to reach an agreement. Reporters for local and international news media have learned that PAISA and the PSP would not accept some of the clauses needed to implement the coalition. After the deadline expired, the Central Electoral Council officially proceeded to close the period of registration. Therefore, each party will participate separately in the electoral process, since there is no time legally to form a coalition.

MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED IN VARIOUS AREAS

Rebels Burn Mayors' Offices

PA272147 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The eastern sector of San Miguel was attacked early this morning by rebel forces, who burned the mayors' offices in Comacaran and Uluazapa. Military and civilian sources said that this was possible because there is no military or civilian defense protection in any of these towns. The same sources indicated that the civilian registration records for identification cards were destroyed in the fire, but not the birth certificate records, which were at the Central Council to be microfilmed.

Venceremos on Seizure of Towns

PA271253 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade have seized the towns of Comacaran and Uluazapa, located a few kilometers away from the departmental capital of San Miguel. The action was carried out in the early hours of Sunday, 26 February. Meanwhile, our military units seized control of a stretch of the military (?route) to secure this operation. This action falls within the framework of our military-political campaign "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977." Once the dictatorship's paramilitary forces were ousted from the two towns, we recovered four Czechoslovak [as heard] rifles, a shotgun, and two revolvers.

Thus, we continue our political-military campaign, which began successfully in Masahuat, Santa Ana Department. Our new military campaign is: "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977."

Rebels Fire At Plane

PA271328 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] As part of its interventionist escalation in El Salvador, the imperialists announced several weeks ago that they would base several observation planes at the military base in Palmerola, Honduras. These planes have already begun flying over Salvadoran territory. At 1800 last Friday, A U.S.-made OV-1 observation plane departed Honduras and overflew the northern part of Morazan Department. Our forces opened anti-aircraft fire on this observation plane. The FMLN forces will continue to fire on any Yankee aircraft that penetrates our controlled territories, in legitimate defense of our airspace and national sovereignty.

Cazadores Squads Defeated

PA272153 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The Cazadores Battalion is suffering more defeats in the guerrilla Department of San Vicente. The following is a report sent by our correspondent, Companero Vidal Fuentes, from the Anastasio Aquino paracentral front:

[Begin recording] The puppet troops are again being defeated in the Department of San Vicente. On 24 February two U.S.-trained Cazadores squads entered the San Jacinto and San Bartolo cantons. They met our vanguard units at 0900. The ensuing clashes lasted until 1400 in the areas of Amato, Cerro La Campana, Cerro El Pajal, and San Bartolo, southwest of the city of San Vicente. The genocidal troops had artillery and air support from push-and-pull planes. We inflicted many casualties on the enemy troops, although the exact number could not be determined. This operation of inflicting surprise attacks [words indistinct]. [end recording]

POLITICAL PRISONERS BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE

PA270149 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] We will now read a communique issued by the Committee of Political Prisoners of El Salvador, COPRES, in which our companeros have declared a hunger strike as their final recourse to achieve their immediate release.

COPRES, an organization that includes women and men deprived of their (?freedom) at the Ilopango and Mariona jails, states that whereas:

1. The living conditions of more than 60 women in Ilopango and more than 430 political prisoners in Mariona remain unresolved due to the dilatory and intransigent attitude of the authorities at the General Directorate of Penal Centers [Direccion General de Centros Penales]. These conditions have worsened due to the arbitrariness of military commanders and the incapacity of the Supreme Court of Justice in complying with its obligation to administer and to ensure justice in our country.
2. Human rights continue to be violated in our country. The number of innocent victims continues to grow: women, elderly people, youths, and children who have been killed, who are missing, or who have been captured and fill our jails by the thousands--leaving thousands of humble families facing abandonment and mourning.

3. The government insists on holding free elections in March, against the people's will. These elections will not help resolve our grave social, economic, and political problems if the FMLN-FDR proposal for dialogue and negotiations is not taken into consideration [word indistinct] peace and social justice [words indistinct].
4. The Reagan administration has arrogantly issued threats of direct military intervention against our country, disregarding our suffering, sovereignty, independence, and our right to self-determination. This has prompted our people to [words indistinct] which has been demonstrated in many ways.
5. We have protested these conditions [words indistinct] before the authorities of the General Directorate of Penal Centers, so far without obtaining any [words indistinct] for our vindication. We are also inspired by the unbending struggle of our mothers and relatives who risk their lives for our unconditional freedom.

Therefore, COPRES hereby declares:

1. As of 20 February, we will express our fighting determination with a hunger strike for an indefinite period of time, to protest the above conditions. A group of 50 compañeros -- political prisoners -- will begin the hunger strike, and this number will gradually increase.
2. We demand the effective fulfillment of our demands, with no dilatory or intransigent positions. We condemn [word indistinct] any kind of maneuver against our security.
3. We make the authorities of the General Directorate of Penal Centers, the Justice Ministry, and the provisional government of Alvaro Magana responsible for the consequences resulting from the physical weakness experienced by political prisoners participating in this hunger strike.

We demand unconditional freedom for all political prisoners, an immediate response to our demands, and an end to violation of human rights. We say no to the electoral farce and no to the Yankee military intervention.

[Signed] COPRES, February 1984

FMLN SPOKESMAN ON REVOLUTION, ELECTIONS

For an interview with FMLN spokesman Commander Ramiro Vazquez by an IZVESTIYA correspondent, including his comments on the situation in El Salvador, U.S. actions, and the forthcoming elections, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 28 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

GUATEMALA

ENVOY TO HONDURAS TO REPORT ON PRICE VISIT

PA280249 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0002 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Feb (DPA) -- General Rodolfo Cuyun, the Guatemalan ambassador to Honduras, has been recalled by the Foreign Ministry to report in detail on the visit to Honduras by Belizean Prime Minister George Price. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran reported today.

Price visited Honduras last week and met with President Roberto Suazo Cordova and Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica. At the time, the Guatemalan foreign minister deplored the visit, commenting that Guatemala will not give up its rights to the territory of Belize, to which Great Britain granted independence in 1981.

Andrade Diaz-Duran also warned that Guatemala will oppose any request by Belize to join the Central American Integration System or other pacts. Guatemala has claimed the 23,000-square-km territory of Belize for more than 100 years.

UNIVERSITY CONDEMNS MURDER OF PROFESSOR

PA241906 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The University of San Carlos today condemned the murder of one of its officials, former Professor Santiago Lopez Aguilar. Aguilar, 44, was found dead at (Derrí) Square, in Zone 13 of Guatemala City. Before the body was found, however, a man who claimed to be a member of the Guatemalan Labor Party, PGT, said in a telephone call that the body of Commander Inti had been left at the square. Upon arrival, the police and newsmen found a note near the victim that read: Executed for treason. By midnight it had been determined that the dead man was Aguilar.

STUDENT LEADER KIDNAPPED 24 FEB STILL MISSING

PA280252 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Feb 84 p 4

[Text] Sergio Linares, an engineer, has been kidnapped by a group of armed men who attacked his residence. His whereabouts are still unknown, although authorities have been asked, through several channels, to produce him. According to the rector of San Carlos University, Eduardo Mein, the kidnappers arrived at Linares' residence, kidnapped him, and beat his mother.

Although police claim that his kidnapping has not been reported, authorities announced -- as in similar cases in the past -- that they will order an investigation to try to locate Linares. In the short interview that we managed to conduct with the rector of San Carlos University, we learned that the kidnapping took place on Friday. It has caused great concern in university circles.

Linares was presumably kidnapped because he was a student leader. It was reported today that Linares' relatives will make new efforts, particularly asking legal authorities to launch an exhaustive investigation. Student leaders from various schools have condemned this violation of human rights and have demanded his immediate release.

ABDUCTIONS, BURNINGS IN SAN MARCOS REPORTED

PA242013 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] There is panic in San Marcos Department. Dozens of unidentified, armed men have kidnapped a number of peasants. According to initial reports, three men were killed as a result. It has been reported to the "El Independiente" newscast that unidentified men abducted a number of peasants; the precise number has not been established, because most of the peasants in the area fled for their lives.

It was also reported that the unidentified men, after causing terror, burned the homes of San Marco's four most important peasant leaders, along with a large quantity of corn that was ready for sale and consumption. The terrorized residents scattered, many trying to reach the departmental capital in order to report the incidents.

Young peasant Mario Antonio Velasquez Fernandez, 17, was riddled with bullets while trying to escape a large-scale abduction of peasants at the La Colonia farm in the El Tumbador jurisdiction of San Marcos Department. At least 100 unidentified men took the peasants from the region. Fernandez, who tried to escape the kidnappers during a moment of inattention, was shot.

Meanwhile, it was reported last night that 17 peasants, including a woman, are missing from the municipality of El Tumbador in San Marcos Department. The kidnappers took the terrified residents away by force. In addition, it has been reported in the past few hours that these same armed men entered the village of La Libertad in the municipality of El Tumbador, in San Marcos Department, and took at least 1,000 peasants by force to an unknown destination. The distressed relatives of those who were kidnapped have asked for immediate assistance from the security forces, particularly from the region's military posts, so that this huge abduction can be clarified and so that those who were taken from their homes may be returned safely.

THREE GUERRILLAS KILLED IN CLASH IN SAN MARCOS

PA272302 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] A military patrol clashed with a group of guerrillas at 1130 today at the Pajapa farm in the municipality of Tapatita in San Marcos Department. Three unidentified guerrillas were killed in the clash. It was officially reported that AR-15 and Galil rifles, a CAM 30-mm carbine, and four knapsacks containing food and medicine were left behind by the guerrillas.

HONDURAS

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL OFFICIAL CHARGES PLOT

PA241749 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Report by Milton Mateo]

[Excerpt] Professor Fausto Castillo Suazo, vice president of the National Electoral Tribunal, yesterday reported that there was a plot to destabilize the government. He said that the plot originated at the National Electoral Tribunal, where Tribunal President Adan Palacios made an entirely groundless charge. Castillo Suazo today goes a step further, mentioning the names of several organizations and indicating where the three opposition party representatives and two prominent dissident figures of the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH] have been meeting. Our question is: Why would individuals who are a part of the administration be trying to undermine the current political system? His answer:

[Begin regarding] [Castillo Suazo] I have asked myself the same thing. [passage indistinct]. Listen, the people should know. I don't know if the people are more aware now, but we have learned that secret meetings are being held at a house near 5 September Street.

These meetings are attended by members of the Innovation and Unity Party [PINU], the Honduran Christian Democratic Party [PDCH], the National Party of Honduras [PNH], and two PLH dissidents. I don't know what they are up to, but we are trying to find out what else is being plotted. Nothing that is good for the country will come out of these meetings. I understand that they are even planning to destabilize the Supreme Court of Justice, to change the board of directors of the National Congress, and to engage in plotting in a number of offices where the PLH exerts some sort of control, (such as) the Comptroller's Office and the Attorney General's Office. This group, in which two PLH traitors are participating, is trying to create chaos in this country. I am now raising this issue publicly.

[Mateo] Why don't you disclose the names of these two traitors?

[Castillo Suazo] No, I don't want to make any premature accusations in this regard. We know that two prominent PNH members, three prominent PDCH members, one PINU member, and two PLH members have been seen entering a house on 5 September Street and that they have been working there. [end recording]

PDC Leader Rejects Charge

PA241752 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Telephone statement made by Honduran Christian Democratic Party, PDC, leader Alfredo Landaverde -- live]

[Text] Good morning, listeners. I want all of you, particularly PDC members, to listen closely. I flatly reject the slanderous statement made by Professor Fausto Castillo, a leader who has the explicit confidence of President Suazo Cordova and the Liberal Party. First, I wish to tell Dr Fausto Castillo that it is absolutely false that we are meeting with the National Party and the PINU [Innovation and Unity Party] to conspire against and to destabilize the government. We reject this action by Dr Fausto Castillo -- it is the sort of thing that one would expect from an agent of the Department of National Investigation, and perhaps he should replace Juan Blas Salazar in the DIN, for he would be a good choice as a successor -- we reject it and hold Professor Fausto Castillo responsible, because, though he is privileged to represent the National Electoral Tribunal and others by virtue of his high office, we will not accept such a tongue-lashing, such slander, and such fantasy as that concocted by Dr Fausto Castillo. He is simply trying to create enemies outside the Liberal Party in an effort to promote party unity, for the Liberal Party is crumbling away in Suazo Cordova's hands. Thus, we reject this charge.

I also want to state the following very clearly: We can meet with the PINU, with the National Party, and with whatever party we see fit, whenever we see fit. We have the right to meet with the Armed Forces, with the church, with whomever we want. But as for the specific charge of a conspiracy, a plot among nationalists, PINU members, and PDC members, I repeat that this is a lie, an invention, a huge fabrication, and a cowardly attack for which we hold him responsible.

I was preparing to go to Lempira this morning, and I will not be late in arriving there -- I let the companeros in Lempira and in Intibuca know that I will be late -- because I am going to the National Electoral Tribunal at 0900 to report this slander through our delegates. I am also going to talk with the PDC's legal representatives to determine what we can do in this case.

We demand as of now that Fausto Castillo provide the names of those people who participated, and that he give the numbers of the houses at which the conspiratorial meetings are held. When the PDC holds party meetings with various other parties, including the Liberal Party, it does not do so secretly, but in the homes of honorable party members, in its own headquarters in the San Carlos neighborhood, or in the headquarters of the other parties mentioned, including the headquarters of parties that have not yet been legalized. We do not hide from anyone and are not afraid of such accusations, because we know that they are absolutely false and are the product of desperation.

We are also going to the DIN to seek official information as to where the Liberal Party obtained this accusation of conspiracy, for if a conspiracy to destabilize the government exists, then it is only logical that Colonel Lopez Grijalba become involved. Therefore, I know that Fausto Castillo, who is apparently in the race at the DIN, will be able to demonstrate what he has said. We will not accept such slander, such heinous, cowardly attacks.

As I said, I will be at the National Electoral Tribunal at 0900 and I call upon Companero Adan Palacios, Companero (Luis Macias), and Companero Octavio Bueso to be there at that time as well, because we must have a party delegation there to begin to iron out this problem.

I think that Fausto Castillo is used to scaring people; he is accustomed to humiliating people in the Tribunal, but Alfredo Landaverde and the PDC will not be humiliated by him. Thank you.

NICARAGUA

LUIS CARRION SEES MORE U.S. AGGRESSION AHEAD

PA272222 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, has outlined a new war of attrition against Nicaragua and plans to divide the people by means of economic difficulties. This was said by Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, first deputy interior minister, to thousands of residents of Masaya, who yesterday participated in the commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the Monimbo insurrection.

Commander Carrion stressed that this will be a year of aggression, and therefore we will have to keep our rifles ready, despite the demoralization and breakup of the counterrevolutionary groups. He said that there are counterrevolutionary leaders who want to leave the counterrevolution and that hundreds of contras are abandoning their ranks, waiting for the moment that they can return to Nicaragua.

Commander Carrion reiterated that imperialism and the CIA have not given up the idea of destroying us and that we must expect new aggression.

The event was also attended by Government Junta member Sergio Ramirez, Federico Lopez, political secretary of the 4th Region's committee, and mothers of heroes and martyrs who died in the Monimbo insurrection.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA DISCUSSES ROLE OF MILITIA

PA262209 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1608 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Speech by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra in Esteli during ceremonies commemorating the 4th anniversary of the Sandinist People's Militias -- live]

[Excerpts] Men, women, children, and elderly of this heroic city of Esteli; brother representatives of the FSLN revolutionary government and the Armed Forces; special guests:

We decided to hold the main event of the 4th anniversary celebration of the Sandinist People's Militias [MPS] in this heroic city of Esteli to pay a well-earned tribute to the men of northern Segovia; to the fighters of the Sandinist working people who are native to this land and who in the past years, and particularly in the past few months, have maintained an unselfish, firm, and courageous combat attitude against the imperialist aggression that our people must face daily in the border areas and in other areas in the north; and particularly to the sons of these lands and other areas of Nicaragua, the militiamen who have given their lives in the defense of the popular interests of our revolution.

We will quickly review the tasks of the militias during 1983 and the objectives for 1984. First, we must point out that important advances were made in 1983. The process of structuring the MPS according to territorial divisions was initiated in 1983. This has permitted an increase in the level of leadership of units and small units by including outstanding individuals from the popular masses, as well as by selecting and promoting local leaders for the different positions of leadership based on their own areas of residence. This system has improved short-term, organized mobilization of MPS troops for the fulfillment of their diverse fighting missions.

If we are truly consistent with the revolutionary decision to defend the last corner of our territory with our last drop of blood, then it is logical to organize the entire country, all the workers, into militia in accordance with this revolutionary belief.

Most of Nicaragua is inhabited. Of course, some very isolated jungle or mountainous areas are sparsely populated. However, those places that are strategic, those areas of Nicaragua that are of vital importance and which the enemy considers vital to occupy in order to recover power in Nicaragua, those areas are generally populated. There are citizens there who live and work in the city and in the field. All these citizens, the immense majority of whom are Sandinists, have been incorporated into the MPS since its creation.

However, last year we decided to take a big step in organizing the militias. It was not enough for the people to organize themselves in the diverse units -- factories, neighborhoods, schools, fields -- of the militias. It was necessary to better organize this large mass of citizens to obtain a higher level of permanent military preparedness. That is why we decided to structure the militias according to territory. What does this permit? Among other things, it allows us to cover the entire territory of Nicaragua with larger and more cohesive militia forces through a specific military structure.

If the militia units that we have here today were not structured as they are, or if they were organized as in the past, in small, dispersed units, it would be much more difficult to organize battalions, strategies, and the fighting missions of these forces, because they would be scattered throughout the terrain and the command capacity would not be as strong.

This is why it is important for the companeros of the militia and their leaders to understand the meaning of this step and to realize that the most important thing is to maintain the cohesion of these brigades. What does this involve? Keeping the forces up to date, trained, oriented, and constantly concerned about the preparedness of the units. Only then will we be able to say that we have a real brigade.

There was an overall increase which stemmed from the aggression we experienced late last year. You recall that in November our homeland was on the verge of being invaded by U.S. troops. Following this situation there was a 100-percent increase in the rolls of the militia compared to the previous year, 1982. This is very important, because the Yankee imperialists, as they threaten us and carry out daily attacks from the Honduran and Costa Rican borders, with the help of the Somozist and the traitor Pastora's bands, as they carry out their sea and air attacks against our ports, believe that our working people, our peasant people, will become nervous, tremble, kneel, and tell them: Okay, do as you please with us.

The Yankees also attack us economically. They hinder our trade movement in the world, they threaten some countries so that these countries will not sell to Nicaragua, will not grant loans to Nicaragua, and will not trade with Nicaragua.

This is the situation we are experiencing, and the Yankees believe that because of this economic aggression, political aggression, and military aggression the Nicaraguan people will crack [rajar], that the Nicaraguan people will begin to shake and surrender like a prostitute surrendering to their desires. But here is our answer:

When they had their thousands of men in Honduras; when they had their warships anchored off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts; when they were developing their "Big Pine II" maneuvers with thousands of Honduran soldiers; when they were arrogantly ready to drop their paratroopers over Managua; when the arrogant Yankees murdered the people of Grenada and in their opinion won -- aren't they ashamed -- great war -- the truth is that it was a great criminal action, one of the world's greatest powers against the unarmed people of Grenada -- when they threatened us with all this, the people of Nicaragua did not get scared, tremble, or think twice before joining the militia en masse. We doubled the number of militiamen that we had at that moment; hundreds of thousands of militiamen willing to defend -- with rifles, mortars, cannon, knives, stones, and everything that they could get their hands on -- our homeland and revolution against those arrogant Gringos who will never again subject us, as they have in the past. [applause]

In Sandinist Segovia the struggle against the counterrevolutionary bands, the main instrument of the Yankees, has been successful. More than 190 clashes have been recorded the past few months. In all these actions the MPS took part and contributed to inflicting casualties on the enemy. We have inflicted more than 600 dead on the enemy in the past few months. [applause]

We also stress the successful actions of the 311, 312, 363, and 364 Militia Brigades, who have waged strong and victorious battles in Ciudad Sandino, La Yegua, Cerro Cacaguaca, San Juan de Limay, El Espino, Pantasma, Wiwili. [applause]

We have also had experience with the work being done by the rightists. LA PRENSA, spokesman within the country for the rightist sectors and the imperialists, has tried to distort Sandino's image and his anti-imperialist, classist, popular, and revolutionary feelings. They have tried to distort Sandino's works and thoughts to confuse the Nicaraguan Sandinist masses. The members of the militia must also be alert to this kind of work and help to clarify things for our people.

Despite the aggressions being experienced by our homeland, the MPS has participated outstandingly in the production area. More than 10,000 militiamen [5-second break in transmission] in the coffee and cotton picking tasks. They have not only contributed in picking coffee and cotton, but also in defending the student production battalions and other labor forces from attacks by the counterrevolutionary bands.

In 1983 there was an increase of more than 70 percent in the number of weapons given to the MPS, and this has improved its fighting capacity. The importance of the decision to give the weapons to the MPS lies in the revolutionary vanguard's absolute trust in the people because the people are the revolution, and who but the people can best safeguard the weapons of the revolution? The weapons are for the people. [applause]

George Shultz, vice president of the United States [as heard], recently said that the announcement of elections by Commander Daniel Ortega on behalf of the government and the Sandinist vanguard would not change the current aggressive policy of the United States toward Nicaragua; as if we were holding elections to please the Yankee gentlemen. We are not holding elections to please anyone; we are doing what we believe we should do to improve our revolutionary ways and efforts and to improve our revolutionary process. We have never felt that the elections would be an antidote to Yankee aggressions. The only thing that stops the Yankees from coming into Nicaragua is the armed people, the armed militiamen, and the people's willingness to die fighting, any place in the country, against the Yankee attacker. This is what makes the Yankees think twice before coming to Nicaragua. [applause and slogans]

Let Mr Shultz know that we are not doing things to please them or because we are afraid of them. The Yankees must be very clear that we are not afraid of them, we are responsible and we don't want a war for Nicaragua or the Central American region, because it would be that kind of war if Nicaragua were attacked -- a war without borders. We don't want that war, but we are not frightened by their threats or the possibility of aggression.

We want to remind Mr Shultz that we are going to do what we believe is right. We will have the kind of democracy we want and not the kind of democracy they want.

Meanwhile, together with the territorial organization of the combat units, during the 1983 training year we trained more than 60 percent of the members of the militia throughout the country. In some regions we carried out intensive courses on combat cohesion, which were taught at militia training schools, camp schools, and mobile schools. We also expanded basic courses for thousands of new students. More than 2,000 small unit commanders were trained during courses taught for militia officers. This has contributed to strengthening the consolidation of the militia's military command.

I am going to read quickly our goals for this year: To have each commander teach his subordinates all that is necessary for war in such a way that there will be no place in our territory where the enemy will not find the strongest resistance, and to have every weapon in hand to ensure the death of the invader, be it Honduran, Gringo, or any other nationality. [applause]

This year we must continue to strengthen coordination between the MPS and the professional structures of the FSLN, the masses, the state, and the government to achieve greater levels of complete units, selection of command cadres, and increased participation by militiamen in the classes on combat preparedness and related activities, and at the same time make efforts to ensure attendance of more than 80 percent at the classes on combat preparedness for the militia.

It is not enough to have weapons. You have to know your weapon and learn the art of war. This year every member of the militia must learn all that is necessary to wage a regular or irregular war. That is very important. The structure of the militia must, little by little, be aimed at carrying out missions within the regular strategy of combat directed by the Army as well as the strategies involved in irregular warfare. This would be somewhat like the guerrilla struggle we waged in the past, but with more discipline and organized in battalions, brigades, companies, and not in such a disorderly manner as we had in the past. I am speaking of the time before the triumph of the revolution, when we were fighting against Somoism.

Special attention must be given to the training of cadres in political and military aspects. If the cadres are not well trained it will be very difficult to train their subordinates. On the other hand, a member of the militia must also be a permanent political activist. He must make his neighbor, family, girl friend, mother, and sister aware of the problems that we are experiencing. Therefore, it is important that our Armed Forces and militia be kept up to date on the problems faced by the revolution. He must be made aware of the social, economic, and political problems. He must work constantly to develop, maintain, perfect, and control our textbooks.

Lastly, the member of the militia must learn how his weapon is built, how it is taken apart, cleaned, and used. This last part is important. We must fire our weapons only when we are fighting our enemy, or when we are training.

In memory of the companeros who fell on 26 February -- Camilo, Arnaldo, Moises -- in memory of the hundreds of repressed and fallen during the February uprising in Masaya; in memory of the militiamen of northern Esteli, Sandinist Segovia, Leon, Managua, the Pacific and Atlantic coasts; in memory of the militiamen who fell in 1983 and those who died in the first months of 1984 facing imperialism and beating back the Somozist aggression; in memory of the heroes and martyrs who died here in Esteli, in memory of all these symbols and the strength of our revolutionary spirit, we once again swear and commit ourselves -- as Camilo, Arnaldo, and Moises did when they led the Masaya uprising -- that the FSLN's National Directorate, the vanguard, will continue at the front of the struggle for national reconstruction and will, as they were yesterday, be at the front trenches, weapons in hand, facing the imperialist aggression should it occur.

Free fatherland. [people shout "Or death"] Long live our heroic Sandinist People's Militia. [people shout "Long live"] Long live the heroic worker, peasant, laborer, and craftsman people of Esteli. [people shout "Long live"]

STATE COUNCIL APPROVES 4 ELECTORAL LAW ARTICLES

PA272340 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Report by Oscar Alvarez]

[Text] Four articles of the electoral law have been approved so far during today's seventh special session of the State Council. The representatives of the Social Christian Party, the Democratic Conservative Party [PCD], and the Social Democratic Party have been participating in the discussion of the bill, thus showing their interest in the institutionalization of the revolution through the electoral law.

The articles that were approved this morning include Article 21, on the zonal electoral boards and their alternates. They will be composed of a president and secretary who meet the requirements established by Article 10. They will be appointed by the Supreme Electoral Council of the respective district. Article 24 on the powers of the Vote Receiving Boards was also approved. The boards will certify the registration of voters in accordance with the law and the established requirements. They will guarantee the exercise of suffrage, receive votes, and process requests on challenges to the votes.

We will now hear the remarks of Felix Pedro Espinosa, PCD representative in the State Council:

[Begin Espinosa recording] It is clear as it has been drafted [words indistinct]. As it has been drafted by the commission, it guarantees suffrage because the Vote Receiving Board is a competent authority of a state power such as electoral power. We believe that the draft that she [Carmen Moreno, Sandinist Youth representative] is proposing reduces the board's authority. The Vote Receiving Board is the authority that will provide all the guarantees for the electoral process and the exercise of suffrage. Because they are authorities, they will use all their powers to see that citizens can exercise that right with all guarantees. The draft that she is proposing leaves the board too weak. It detracts from the authority and power of the vote receiving board. Therefore, I advocate the clause remaining as it is, and I emphatically oppose the draft proposed by Carmen Moreno. Thank you, Mr. President. [end recording]

ORTEGA, RAMIREZ TO HEAD SANDINIST TICKET

FL280016 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2142 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Managua, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez, both members of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, are the candidates for president and vice president to be nominated by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, reliable sources told NOTIMEX today.

Within the context of the elections scheduled for 4 November of this year, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega yesterday asserted that the elections in his country are not meant to please anyone, but rather to improve the revolutionary process.

Meanwhile, the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), a member of the so-called Revolutionary Patriotic Front (FPR), which has sided with the FSLN, today announced its decision to participate in the elections with its own candidate.

Among the Nicaraguan opposition parties, views on the elections are divided, and some are threatening a boycott because the conditions needed for an electoral process do not exist, and others believe that nonparticipation represents an act of political cowardice.

Political analysts, who are closely monitoring events in the country, have commented that all of this is positive, inasmuch as it reflects the beginning of an environment which, it is hoped, will be rich in politics and ideology and will include the participation by all the representative forces of the social classes that are struggling head-on, fully involved in the Nicaraguan revolution.

PLI TO RUN SEPARATELY IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

PA272022 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Virgilio Godoy Reyes has been reelected president of the Board of Directors of the Independent Liberal Party, PLI, during a PLI national assembly. Godoy received 83 votes from a total of 120 representatives or convention delegates from Managua and the rest of the country. His opponent, Rodolfo Robelo, obtained 37 votes. Serious conflicts arose at the event, which was held yesterday at the Las Mercedes Hotel, between groups supporting Robelo and those supporting Godoy, who has been accused of steering the party to the so-called right.

Ulises Somarriba was elected secretary general and Eduardo Coronado was elected first vice president. Alejandro Briones and Bayardo Guzman were elected second and third vice president respectively.

The PLI will seek power independently in the 4 November elections. In other words, it is leaving the Revolutionary Patriotic Front. This was reported yesterday at the PLI national assembly held at Las Mercedes Hotel. Even though the PLI will run separately in the elections, it is leaving the door open to talks with the left-wing and democratic forces.

According to the PLI, the state of emergency should apply only to the troubled areas, and the electoral process must be held with due respect for human rights and without press censorship.

PLI OBJECTS TO MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTIES

PA240458 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] We will now hear Orlando Quinonez, representing the PLI [Independent Liberal Party] at the State Council, explaining some of the reasons why his party disagreed with the recommendations of the commission in charge of studying the draft bill for the electoral law.

[Begin Quinonez recording] We have several objections. Regarding the percentage for [word indistinct] the PLI, the PCN [Nicaraguan Conservative Party], and the Popular Social Christian Party must now comply with the registration requirement of 5,000 signatures. Why is this necessary?

We have applauded the fact that elections will be held on 4 November. We are very pleased and happy with this announcement, as our party is now strong, organized, united, and ready for the elections. Next Saturday and Sunday, you will see that the PLI has been unified and strengthened among all its departmental organizations and representatives. We are ready to begin the 8 months or 3 months of the electoral campaign, whenever it begins. We have agreed to this. However, we disagree with the requirement of having to present 5,000 signatures in order to become a political party, when we have been a party for 40 years. We don't need to be declared a political party at this historic moment, because we are already a party. All the Nicaraguan Liberals are behind us, this is a well-known fact.

We also disagree with the stipulation requiring a party to receive 3 percent of the votes in order to maintain its legal status. This is absurd, and should be eliminated from the draft bill. According to this, a party's right to participate in the elections may be recognized, and its candidates for representative may win, but if these representatives do not have 3 percent of the votes the party will lose its legal status. The commission should have taken all this into account.

In addition, during the second meeting with the commission, the president made important recommendations, and the commission's president, Companero (Caldera) commented that these were important and positive contributions, which had to be incorporated into the law. These recommendations are outlined in a very important document. The most important ones should have been included in the law; however, the commission has ignored them. [end recording]

DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING BOARD ELECTIONS STANCE

PA271916 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Feb 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Urging the Sandinist government to act "more responsibly," the Nicaraguan opposition for the second time in 2 months has demanded the separation of party and state, the repeal of unfair laws, the suspension of the state of emergency, and the opening of a national dialogue as prior conditions for next year's elections. The Nicaraguan democratic leaders have not, however, specifically established whether they will participate in the elections should the government fail to meet the recommendations that they made last December, which were reiterated today at noon.

Luis Rivas Leiva, president of the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board and secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, said in a statement read to a group of local and foreign reporters that "the government's silence regarding the document submitted by the Coordinating Board last December is an indication of the Government Junta's lack of interest in heeding the advice of the Contadora Group to make an earnest effort for national reconciliation."

The recently elected president of the Coordinating Board strongly demanded state-party separation, specifically referring to the separation of the Army, militias, police, and television, which are presently monopolized and utilized by the FSLN.

Rivas Leiva also pointed to the urgent need that the mass organizations "no longer be used as the arm of the FSLN, financed by the state," referring to the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees], the ATC [Association of Agricultural Workers], AMNLAE [Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women], ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers], and the Sandinist Youth.

The Nicaraguan opposition has also demanded the repeal of the red-black [FSLN party colors] code "that limits freedom of expression and press," as well as the law that violates private property (the 6-month and decapitalization law). The Nicaraguan democrats also demanded for the second time the suspension of the state of emergency so that there may be freedom of expression, information, and assembly.

The intention of the Nicaraguan opposition coalition was clear when it asked for a general amnesty "permitting the participation of all Nicaraguans in the electoral process." The Coordinating Board also asked for an autonomous judicial branch as well as respect for freedom of worship and labor union freedom "to permit workers the full exercise of their rights, including the right to strike and to organize."

After requesting a writ of unconstitutionality, the Nicaraguan democrats also demanded a national dialogue to call elections that will permit the counterrevolutionaries to participate.

The Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board this morning demanded that the elections be rescheduled for January 1985 and that the constitution to be debated follow Western-style democracy. Therefore, the new constitution of the Republic "must include as elements" a republican, democratic and representative state and independence of the legislative, executive and judicial branches. The board proposed that elections be held every 5 years and that the vote be universal, direct, and secret.

The opposition coalition also demanded that the human rights of all Nicaraguans be fully respected, that municipalities be autonomous, that the Armed Forces refrain from participating in politics, and that the military be subordinate to civilian authority. Luis Rivas Leiva, president of the Ramiro Sacasa coordinating Board, also demanded that the Army and the police be separated, that civil servants be protected by the establishment of an administrative and judicial system, and that reelection of the president be prohibited.

After Rivas Leiva finished reading the document, reporters interviewed the democratic leaders present, including Ramiro Guardian [president of the Agricultural and Livestock Producers of Nicaragua], Carlos Huembes [vice president of the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board], Erick Ramirez [executive secretary of the National Confederation of Professional Associations], and Azucena Ferrey [not further identified].

"We called this press conference to make our demands, because this draft electoral law is designed to ensure that the FSLN always remains in power," Carlos Huembes said in response to a question.

"This electoral process deserves no trust from the Nicaraguan people. That is why we are calling for a responsible process," Luis Rivas Leiva added.

Huembes, addressing the topic again, said: "The FSLN has the opportunity to offer truly free elections to the people. As the elections are planned, the party in power has already won them without taking the people's will into consideration."

Meanwhile, Ramiro Guardian, in response to a question by an American reporter on directions issued by Leticia Herrera [secretary general of the Sandinist Defense Committees, CDS] to the CDS leaders to stop pressuring the people with ration cards, said:

"That is propaganda that the FSLN wants to use and to make public. The truth is that there is no reason why there should be any CDS. They should not exist."

"What is the purpose of having CDS in Nicaragua? What role can they play other than to copy the Cuban model?" he asked.

Meanwhile, regarding the elections that have been announced, Guardian told reporters that pro-Sandinist campaigning is taking place within the ranks of the Army as part of military discipline. "I was watching a television program last night," Guardian said, "in which Commander Humberto Ortega was telling the soldiers that they should be Sandinists."

"Therefore, if we take into account that we must all join the Army to serve under the Patriotic Military Service, and that the commander-in-chief of the Army tells us that we have to be Sandinists, then what kind of elections are we going to have in Nicaragua?" he asked in conclusion.

PCD COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZES ELECTORAL PROCESS

PA272127 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Feb 84 pp 1, 4

[Communique issued by the Democratic Conservative Party, PCD, on 13 February]

[Excerpts] The Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua [PCD], with renewed concern for peace and democracy in Nicaragua, notes the insistence of the FSLN to carry out obstinately and without consultation its projects for an electoral process, which the nation's democratic parties and associations consider incompatible with the original principles and the programs of the Nicaraguan revolution and lacking the elemental conditions of authentic guarantees and freedoms necessary for the functioning of democratic pluralism.

Since 1980, the democratic parties and independent business and labor organizations have protested the deviations from the original principles and programs of the revolution on the part of the FSLN government.

On 25 August 1981, the PCD submitted a document to OAS member governments listing in detail the noncompliance with and violation of the government program of July 1979, of the Fundamental Statute of August of that same year, and of the commitments made by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction to the OAS in a letter to its secretary general dated 12 July 1979. The letter asked the American governments to comply with their own commitments to the people of Nicaragua, as established in the resolution of the 17th consultative meeting of the OAS on Nicaragua, to promote "a lasting and peaceful resolution to the Nicaraguan problem," based on a democratic, pluralistic government, respect for human rights, and "the holding of free elections as soon as possible, leading to the establishment of an authentic democratic government that may guarantee peace, freedom, and justice."

Only after the armed struggle increased in El Salvador and surfaced in Nicaragua, threatening to trigger a serious conflict throughout Central America, with U.S. intervention, did the pacifying efforts of the so-called Contadora Group appear, as a feeble substitute for the vigilant and effective action that should have been taken by the OAS 3 years ago, when we requested it, utilizing its moral and judicial authority prior to Contadora, and based on the resolution of its 17th consultative meeting and on the commitments by the government born of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Denying the Contadora member nations any right to interfere in the internal affairs of Nicaragua, the FSLN is conducting an electoral process aimed at democratic appearances while strengthening the totalitarian, Marxist system that has been implemented in Nicaragua since 1979, violating the democratic principles and programs of the revolution and the commitments to the OAS.

We must point out that the announced elections for president, vice president, and a constituent assembly may become an even harder blow to the aspirations of the people, because should the constituent assembly alone be elected, the FSLN would automatically have 2 more years in power while the constitution is drafted. Therefore, a brief period must be fixed for drafting the constitution, without changing the date of the general elections for president and vice president.

With absolute contempt for those recommendations and mocking so-called political pluralism, the FSLN and the State Council, controlled by the former, on 8 February proceeded to submit for the consideration of the Council a draft reform to the Fundamental Statute and an electoral draft bill, intended to serve as basis for calling elections for president and vice president, and for 90 representatives to a legislative assembly which, in addition to its own normal functions, would discuss and approve in the 2-year period a new constitution.

Such projects imply substantial violations of the Sandinist government's commitments to the OAS, and, at the same time, to the Nicaraguan people, the Fundamental Statute, the government program, and human rights, denying the basic guarantees for a free, democratic electoral process.

COMMUNIST LEADER DENIES SIDING WITH RIGHTISTS

PA272139 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 Feb 84 p 10

[Text] Eli Altamirano, secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCN], denied yesterday at noon that there are points of convergence between the PCN and parties he described as bourgeois, despite the fact that the PCN and the CAUS [Labor Action and Unity Federation] have used exactly the same arguments as the rightist parties in opposing amendments to the Fundamental Statute during debates in the State Council. Altamirano's statements were broadcast during Radio Noticias' "Radio Reports" program. While he agreed with the rightists in opposing amendment of the Fundamental Statute, he said that "my party is the antithesis of the capitalism that is practiced by the bourgeois parties." Altamirano added that propaganda about the alleged convergence is designed to discredit the PCN.

The communist leader said in a very arrogant tone that the elections should be for a constituent assembly only, so that the people can decide their future for themselves and can identify their most pressing problems. Otherwise, the president will take precedence over the National Assembly, he said. In closing the news program, he said that the bourgeois parties agreed with the PCN because they are an obnoxious opposition, obsessed with opposing everything that the FSLN proposes.

INDIAN GROUPS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

PA241951 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Feb 84 p 48

[Text] Communique: The nationalist indigenous organization called MISURA and Creoles (Miskito, Sumu, Rama, and Creoles) once again declares its firm stand on our dear homeland's current political situation.

1. Because of the current circumstances, the MISURA and Creoles organization, which is struggling today in the Nicaraguan mountains, will not participate in the so-called elections that the nine commanders of Managua's bloody regime, the FSLN, are prefabricating.

2. To submit to these elections is to betray the ideals of our martyrs, who gave their lives to see Nicaragua free of all foreign invaders, particularly the Marxist-Leninist ideological invaders.

3. To submit to these elections is to contribute to and to forget the Sandinist policy of extermination, which is applied daily to the Indians on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast.

4. We feel that the Nicaraguan people are not prepared to participate in the elections under conditions of fraud and terror, and in a climate of total distrust between the people and the FSLN.

5. We want the world to know that the MISURA and Creoles organization is not fighting to gain political power, much less to seize power alongside the nine bloody ones, only to go down in Nicaraguan history as black sheep who were deceived.

6. MISURA and Creoles will continue to seek and will endorse the unification of all democratic sectors currently struggling either civically or militarily against the Managua regime: the Democratic Coordinating Board, ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], and the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force], as long as they maintain a democratic, nationalistic, sovereign, independent, and anticommunist political line.

7. As for the stand taken by the ARDE leaders (Eden Pastora and Alfonso Robelo), who want to return to Nicaragua and to submit to and to participate in the elections, this is tantamount to being deceived yet again, as they were when they shared power with the Sandinists. In answer to ARDE's recent declaration in connection with a cease-fire, these leaders should know that the armed anti-Sandinist struggle depends not only on ARDE's decisions, but on those of all organizations that are currently fighting to expel communism from Nicaragua. Therefore, MISURA and Creoles once again defines its present stand, which is that of waging the struggle to the very last consequences.

8. The leaders of our organization urge those leaders to reflect and to examine the position adopted by the Sandinist State Council, which recently published decrees favoring only the FSLN party-state.

Issued in Tegucigalpa at 2000 on 21 February 1984

For God and the fatherland, we will win.

Wycliss Diego, Political Coordinator of MISURA

Adan Artola, in charge of information press and propaganda

VOICE OF SANDINO CARRIES ARDE WAR BULLETINS

Claims 21 Dead in 3 Battles

PA251540 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 24 Feb 83

[War Bulletin No 181 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 24 February]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the people of Nicaragua and to the world's free peoples that:

1. At 1100 on 23 February, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana column, belonging to the Felix Pedro Martinez unit and led by Companero Gordo, ambushed one of the interventionist army's patrols in Buena Vista, in the jurisdiction of Nueve Guinea, killing seven soldiers and wounding four in the ensuing 20-minute clash.

2. In the El Pajaro area of Nuevo Guinea, the General Francisco Estrada column, belonging to the Fang-6 unit and led by Companero Gemelo, clashed with a Sandinist Army platoon that ventured into the area. Our forces killed six troops and wounded five in the resulting battle, forcing the enemy to retreat.

3. At 0800 on 18 February, the Fang-6 unit's Gen Francisco Estrada column, under the command of Companero Gemelo, engaged the enemy in a 15-minute battle in the area of Santa Rita de la Fonseca, in the jurisdiction of Nueva Guinea, killing eight, including the enemy patrol leader, and wounding a great number.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Coast Guard Vessel Sunk

PA280117 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 27 Feb 84

[War Bulletin No 183 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 26 February]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world that our internal resistance in El Bluff has reported that on the night of 25 February -- a day after the Barracuda special commando group placed powerful mines at the entrance to the port of El Bluff, which has been used to bring in weapons from Cuba -- the interventionist army's coast guard vessel "El Tayacan," a French made frigate donated by that country, exploded and sank after hitting one of our mines. the number of dead and injured is unknown. As a result, the ARDE Armed Forces take responsibility for this action, which has already been reported by the international press.

ARDE seriously warns the Cuban regime and all the internationalist interventionists that we have declared that entire area a war zone, that those entering it do so at their own risk, and that they are subject to inspection by our patrol boats, which have been instructed by this command to destroy all vessels carrying military supplies to the Managua Marxist-Leninist government.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

600 REPORTEDLY FLEE TOWARD ARDE TERRITORY

PA240310 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] A total of 600 Nicaraguan brothers are coming, fleeing the systematic repression of Managua's Cuban-Soviet army. ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] is sending aid and protection. ARDE's forces, which dominate a vast region of our territory on the southern front, have sent more than 60 men to help and to protect them. Most of these Nicaraguan brothers are deplorably weak. It has also been confirmed that two persons were wounded during attacks by the interventionist government's air force. Our forces report further that these persons' wounds are infested with maggots.

These brothers have been walking for several days, from the Punta Gorda region, and the death of a boy has been confirmed. It is expected that they will enter our liberated territory at any time. Our combatant brothers have gone out to meet them, carrying milk, oats, and medicine.

VALDES VISITS BULGARIA, MEETS WITH STOYANOV

FL272040 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1240 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] An emotional act celebrating Bulgarian-Cuban fraternal relations took place in the city of Veliko Turnovo on the occasion of the visit of Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez, the Cuban interior minister and a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Ramiro Valdes and his retinue, accompanied by Bulgarian Internal Affairs Minister Dimitur Stoyanov, met with secondary education teachers and students of the (Asen Satalov) secondary school, to which the Komsomol Che Guevara Brigade belongs. A year ago students from this school visited Cuba, traveled along Che Guevara's battle route, and met with his former colleagues and members of his family.

The Cuban and Bulgarian interior ministers greeted the students cordially and stressed the indestructible ties of friendship that unite the two peoples.

LIMA MAYOR MEETS MALMIERCA, TOURS HAVANA

PA280302 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca was met in Havana with Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes, who is visiting Cuba as a guest of the City of Havana People's Government Provincial Assembly. The two men exchanged views regarding the current Latin American political situation and relations between the Cuban and Peruvian capitals. Barrantes also visited Havana's modern Hermanos Samaheira Medical-Surgical Hospital, museum, and the restoration and reconstruction works being carried out in the old sector of the city.

ICRT ANNOUNCES MERGER OF REBELDE, LIBERACION

FL271936 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The Cuban Institute of Radio and Television's [ICRT] national review assembly today will continue the work that it initiated last night in Bauta, Havana Province. The assembly will conclude its meetings on 29 February.

Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Politburo; Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers; and the ICRT Board of Directors, headed by ICRT President Nivaldo Herrera, presided over the inaugural session.

Nivaldo Herrera announced the merger in late March 1984 of Radio Rebelde and Radio Liberacion; the new station will transmit 24 hours daily. It will transmit principally news, sports, and music, although it will also have dramatic programs.

FMLN-FDR MEMBER PRAISES CUBAN INTERNATIONALISM

PA270246 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Interview with Norma Guevara, member of the FMLN-FDR's Solidarity Commission, who attended the 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC, by Pedro Martinez Pirez; date and place of interview not given --- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Martinez Pirez] Considering the internationalism of the Cuban working class, we would like to hear your opinion of the support and solidarity from Cuba for the heroic struggle of the Salvadoran people, as well as for the Nicaraguan people's right to build a new future.

[Guevara] There is no doubt about the Cuban people's internationalism. Concrete facts, attitudes, and lives clearly demonstrate this spirit thousands of miles from Cuba. We Salvadorans admire and are greatly encouraged by this anti-imperialist spirit. We regard it as an example of the attitude and morale to be fostered by counterrevolutionaries. Only in this manner will we preserve the revolutionary spirit, and strengthen and give meaning to our national patriotic cause within the anti-imperialist context. For us, Cuba's firmness in the face of imperialism is our greatest encouragement to move forward in our ferocious struggle against imperialism and the genocidal dictatorship in our country.

NEW CHARGES OF U.S. AGGRESSION IN C.A. NOTED

FL241630 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] New charges concerning the aggressive policy of the Reagan administration against Nicaragua and the U.S. attempts to make Honduras a U.S. military base were a prominent part of the news in Central America in the past few hours.

Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, commented in Managua that recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz imply a threat to Nicaragua and confirm Washington's aggressive policy toward Central America. Ortega said that in view of such arrogant and threatening remarks, Nicaraguans must respond with greater efforts to attacks on the country's sovereignty and must increase production. These are very important aspects of the defense of the Sandinist people's revolution, he said.

Meanwhile, it has been reported in Tegucigalpa that 1,700 U.S. soldiers will remain in Honduras until the "Grenadier I" military maneuvers scheduled for June. The operations that these soldiers will carry out include flights over Salvadoran territory that the FMLN has reported, describing them as part of preparations for a larger attack on the Salvadoran patriotic forces.

COMMENTARY ON SALVADORAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

PA262059 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] On 25 March El Salvador will hold general elections for a president and vice president, as determined by the United States in its effort to impose a presumed solution to the crisis in that Central American country. It is a known fact that the so-called elections will be just another farce and that the official candidates will face no opposition in that contest. The people know this, and their political vanguard, the FMLN, has rejected the elections as a means of pacifying the country.

The regime, however, is continuing its electoral activities, and avid Salvadoran politicians are desperately seeking nomination. Recently, the leader of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party [PDC], Jose Napoleon Duarte, became that party's official presidential candidate. Despite the opposition of the ultrarightist Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, the central elections council legalized the nomination of Duarte as president and of Pablo Mauricio Albergue as vice president. ARENA, headed by former Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the main opponent of Christian Democracy, described the appointment of Albergue as unconstitutional, claiming that Albergue has been occupying the vice presidency of the Republic since March 1982. According to ARENA, the Salvadoran Constitution prohibits the reelection of a member of the government, as it proclaims alternation in power.

The rivalry between ARENA and the PDC has been increasingly aggressive in the last few days. Mutual insults and threats are common in the public appearances of both candidates. Duarte, for instance, has identified d'Aubuisson as Squad Roberto, in direct reference to his links with the Salvadoran paramilitary groups. The ARENA leader, in turn, has described Duarte's followers as cretin democrats [cretino democratas].

As the elections approach, the candidates are trying to speed up their activities and increase pressure on various sectors to gain popular support. Such is the case of Napoleon Duarte, whose party has promised labor leaders direct participation in the organizations entrusted with the development of agrarian reform and labor relations, presumably to be created if the Christian Democrats win the elections. Thus Duarte is pressuring the Democratic Popular Union, one of the main labor organizations of the country, whose vote would be decisive for an eventual victory of the Christian Democracy. Despite these promises, a labor leader has recalled in San Salvador that during the period in which Duarte headed the Christian Democratic junta, from 1980 to 1982, he never worried about the people's aspirations.

Meanwhile, another labor group, the Salvadoran Unified Trade Unions Movement, has publicly predicted that the upcoming elections will not solve the current political and social crisis. Instead, its leader said, these will increase tensions in the already convulsed country. The only solution to the conflict, he noted, is to begin a process of negotiation and dialogue among all parties involved.

While the government is involved in its electoral maneuvers, the FMLN guerrilla forces are continuing to win battles on the military and political fronts, bringing closer the final victory of the people over economic exploitation and political terrorism.

DEFENSE, ELECTIONS SEEN AS MAIN NICARAGUAN TASKS

PA271635 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpts] The Nicaraguan people are engaged in the important task of institutionalizing the country. In accordance with the directives issued by the FSLN and the revolutionary government, they are taking pertinent steps to participate in the 4 November elections.

However, the country's defense continues to be the people's major activity. The war continues along the border areas, particularly in northern Nicaragua near the Honduran border, where the Somoquist groups supported and financed by the United States and the Tegucigalpa regime operate. Moreover, the Honduran Army is increasingly participating in the armed actions against Nicaragua.

According to Brigade Commander Julio Ramos, chief of Sandinist military intelligence, the possibility of a direct clash with Honduran troops and subsequent U.S. intervention cannot be dismissed.

Ramos later explained that the joint "Big Pine" maneuvers enabled the Honduran Armed Forces to expand six landing strips; consolidate two artillery battalions; set up a school for military studies; install two powerful radar stations; and receive airplanes, helicopters, and other war materiel from the United States. Ramos stressed that although the first 2 stages of those maneuvers have already concluded, 1,700 U.S. troops remain in Honduras while U.S. warships remain off the Nicaraguan coast.

Thus, today in Nicaragua, elections and defense constitute two of the most important tasks of both the people and the revolutionary government.

COMMENTARY VIEWS GRENADA, GUYANA, UN DOCUMENT

PA271721 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[From the weekly feature on the Nonaligned Movement]

[Text] The U.S. presence in Grenada, the Caribbean island invaded in October, continues. Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the Advisory Council of Grenada, has admitted that there are 300 U.S. policemen on the island, but he would not disclose the number of U.S. advisers and diplomats in the country. Brathwaite insists that the frequent consultations between Governor General Paul Scoon and the U.S. Embassy do not involve the transfer of instructions from Washington to his government.

It has also been learned that the New Jewel Movement [NJM] plans to participate in the next elections announced in Grenada. Kendrick Radix, a former minister of the ousted people's government in Grenada, has stressed that participation will be limited and not on equal footing with other political parties, due to the persecution unleashed against NJM members. According to Radix, who is touring several Western European countries, Grenada's economy is in a state of total collapse, and over 3,000 people are unemployed.

From another quarter, Guyanese President Linden Forbes Burnham, at an event held on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Guyanese Constitution, said the United States may be involved in a plot to kill him and destabilize his country's economy. Burnham also criticized the governments that maintain relations with South Africa, referring finally to the pressures being exerted on his country. He charged that Guyana is being denied credits for political reasons.

To be sure, Guyana's domestic and foreign policy, as well as its active participation in the Nonaligned Movement, are not in compliance with White House instructions. Whenever it feels that it is being disobeyed, the White House doles out unmerciful punishment. Cubans are aware of this, as they have suffered a U.S. economic blockade for over 20 years.

Meanwhile, in a document circulated at the UN General Assembly, Cuba reiterated its conviction that a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations will help curb those who do not respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other states. The document suggests banning the use of force and guaranteeing the independence of states. It says that recent world events are the result of violation of those very important principles of international relations.

At the United Nations Cuba also expressed itself in favor of the fulfillment of Security Council Resolution 435, on the independence of Namibia, a territory illegally occupied by the racist South African regime.

SELA OFFICIAL CITED ON L.A. DEBT, NEED FOR UNITY

PA271527 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The year 1984 will be a tremendously dramatic year unless a drastic change takes place in the stand adopted by the creditor countries of the underdeveloped world, SELA Secretary General Sebastian Alegrett has said in the Colombian city of Cartagena de Indias. Alegrett is participating in the South-South conference.

During an interview granted to the news agency PRELA, Alegrett denounced the grave perils that threaten the Latin American nations in the face of the creditors' insistence on collecting the huge foreign debt owed by those countries. The SELA secretary general called for effective solidarity among the Latin American peoples in order to avoid this kind of solution because, he stressed, it would be very serious if the fruits of all the efforts made by the Latin American countries and their basic industries should pass into foreign hands.

For his part, Mexican economist (Herb Rosenthal) said that the current tensions and political confrontations have affected the CACM. He added that U.S. economic discrimination against Nicaragua has blocked the regional commercial process.

COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON CONTADORA GOALS

PA251555 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo said in Mexico City that the Contadora Group disagrees that some Central American countries should be strengthened militarily, as proposed by the so-called Kissinger commission for the area. At a press conference held on his arrival in Mexico City, Lloreda stressed that the Contadora Group advocates the suspension of all arms shipments to Central America and the withdrawal of all foreign troops and advisers, so that the area's countries may exercise greater independence in determining their own destinies.

Lloreda also expressed concern over Harry Schlauderman's replacement of Richard Stone as the U.S. special envoy to Central America, while hinting at the possibility of a tougher U.S. stance toward the region. He praised the Nicaraguan electoral process, saying: This process is intended to permit the people to express themselves and thus is in accord with the region's objective of peace.

RIGHTIST PARTIES FORM COALITION IN EL SALVADOR

FL241845 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] El Salvador's political climate is becoming increasingly tense with the announcement of a coalition among rightist parties for the 25 March elections. The Nationalist Republican Alliance, the Salvadoran Institutional Authentic Party, and the Popular Party will merge to prevent a possible victory by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headed by Jose Napoleon Duarte.

In addition, the Central American Unionist Party [PUCA], one of the groups which make up the Democratic Popular Union [Union Popular Democratic -- UPD], an important Salvadoran labor organization, has announced its separation from that group because it rejects a recent alliance between the UPD and the PDC. PUCA also stated that the UPD is no longer following the principles stated in the charter of the organization.

ARENA Rejects Alliance Proposal

PA251916 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The extreme right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, of El Salvador, which nominated Roberto D'Aubuisson as its presidential candidate for the 25 March electoral farce, has turned down a proposal from two rightist parties that they unite against the Christian Democratic Party and the National Coalition Party. The Salvadoran Popular Party and the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party made the proposal, but with the condition that Roberto D'Aubuisson withdraw as the candidate.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that the Salvadoran Army has admitted that ranking officers, under pressure from powerful social sectors, are forcing the peasants to support the rightist parties' electoral campaign and to boycott the Christian Democrats' activities.

Other dispatches indicate that the Salvadoran Army has not been able to stop the rebels' advance in western El Salvador, where the FMLN has again occupied the Atiocoyo farm, while fighting is continuing in the communities of Masahuat, El Jute, Guarnecia, and on El Capullo Hill.

Elsewhere, U.S. Ambassador in Honduras John Dimitri Negroponte has reported that U.S. reconnaissance planes will fly through Salvadoran airspace in efforts to detect the guerrillas' weapons supply lines.

SALVADORAN PRIEST CRITICIZES POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

PA280311 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Father Amilcar Terruella has criticized the way in which Salvadoran political parties are carrying out the present electoral campaign. He said that all kinds of promises are being combined with death threats.

While delivering the traditional Sunday homily, filling in for Bishops Arturo Rivera y Damas and Gregorio Rosas -- who are in the Vatican -- Father Amilcar Terruella added that the presidential candidates are practically offering to shine the citizens' boots. Unfortunately, experience has shown their goals are different. The priest said in conclusion that El Salvador needs a new policy so that all the citizens can really enjoy freedom, live in peace, have a decent roof over their heads and food on their tables, be exposed to culture, and be free to assemble.

Other press reports reveal that the northern area of El Salvador is without electricity for the 3d consecutive day, while fierce clashes are taking place in the Departments of San Vicente, La Libertad, Chalatenango, and Morazan.

UNIONS THREATEN TO JOIN STRIKES IN SAN SALVADOR

PA262025 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Reports from San Salvador have revealed that several unions will join the wave of strikes affecting that capital if no satisfactory solutions are found during the current negotiations with management.

In addition, charges that the Army and the death squads are engaged in repressive actions in the rural sectors are producing growing indignation.

The Central Organization of Salvadoran Workers warned that the tourism, housing, and sewerage unions, among others, will join the already numerous strikes if management turns down their demands.

60 SALVADORAN ARMY CASUALTIES REPORTED

PA251520 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces have suffered more than 60 casualties in clashes in Santa Ana Department in the last 2 weeks. This is a strategic department, both because of its economic wealth and because important government military installations are located there.

According to recent reports, heavy clashes are still going on in El Jute, Masahuat, Guarnećia, and on El Capullo Hill in Santa Ana Department. The Salvadoran Armed Forces press committee reported that four military men, including two officers, were killed by a mine planted by guerrillas on the highway between Zacatecoluca and San Vicente, in the country's central region.

Other reports indicate that 500 Salvadoran political prisoners are continuing their hunger strike [words indistinct] in protest of the conditions in which they are held and the persistent violations of human rights in El Salvador.

REBEL ARMED FORCES ATTACK GUATEMALAN TROOPS

FL231800 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1204 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] A group of Guatemala's Rebel Armed Forces [FAR] has attacked an Army contingent at the Retaltecos Cooperative, La Libertad municipality in El Peten Department. A bulletin issued by the FAR, a member of the URNG, noted that the action was carried out a few days ago and that it is part of its "21 Years of Combative Presence in the Struggle for National Independence and Our People's Freedom campaign.

It was also learned that the repressive forces of the Guatemalan regime detained 262 suspicious people in (?operations in which) Guatemala City was practically cordoned off.

Raul Henriquez, one of the creators of the so-called Guatemalan Democratic Coordinating Board [Coordinadora Democratica de Guatemala], a new organization made up of political parties whose existence is permitted by the government, reported that several politicians have received death threats.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA CITED ON SHULTZ COMMENTS

PA251724 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, has said in Managua that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' recent statements conceal a threat against Nicaragua and reiterate the aggressive U.S. line.

Ortega recalled that Shultz proposed to the U.S. Congress that the Nicaraguan elections be heavily supervised. Commenting on this, the Sandinist commander said that what the U.S. chief diplomat has in mind are elections marked by the disembarkation of U.S. troops in that Central American country.

NICARAGUA CELEBRATES SANDINO ANNIVERSARY

Ortega Speaks

PA222115 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, has said that 1984 will be a year of new challenges and tasks, but that in that small country there are enough people with the hearts to carry out all plans while becoming better Sandinists.

Speaking at the main event of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Nicaraguan forefather Augusto Cesar Sandino, Ortega announced that the elections to choose a president and a vice president of the republic, as well as a 90-member national assembly, will be held on 4 November of this year. Ortega explained that the winners of those elections will assume their posts on 10 January 1985.

The member of the Sandinist front's national leadership noted that in the meantime the United States will continue spending millions of dollars to bring further sorrow to Nicaragua. He stressed that the \$73 million already spent since March 1982 were funds belonging to the American people's social programs.

In 1984, he added, Washington will increase its military presence in Central America, creating new bases, bringing in more planes and troops, and continuing its threat of direct intervention in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Nevertheless, he declared, the Sandinists will continue on their path to a life of dignity, not of treason. He pointed out that in Nicaragua there are no longer any paths for a return to the past, and that anyone who tries to search for them will meet with frustration because today in Nicaragua all paths lead to agrarian reform, education, and health for the people.

Ortega reaffirmed the nonaligned and pluralistic nature of the Nicaraguan revolution, which is now undergoing a process of institutionalization, showing that it is irreversible.

Crowd Holds Vigil

PA222330 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Report by Orlando Castellanos, Radio Havana correspondent in Managua, Nicaragua]

[Excerpt] Large crowds filled the sidewalks in Managua's avenues and roads Monday night, in what the Nicaraguans called a vigil, which lasted until daybreak. People shouted slogans supporting the Sandinist People's Revolution as they waited for the opening of the official ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Augusto Cesar Sandino, the General of Free Men. The most popular slogan on the large handmade posters visible throughout the city was: 50 years later, Sandino lives.

Beginning early on Tuesday morning, large, enthusiastic crowds took to the streets. Singing and chanting slogans, they made their way to the old part of the city and headed for the Plaza of the Revolution, where the tomb of Carlos Fonseca Amador, the glorious founder of the FSLN, is located. These crowds were impressive not only for the combative and enthusiastic spirit they showed, but also because they were made up of young people. I can tell you that the vast majority of the many thousands who filled the plaza to overflowing were young men and women, many of whom had just returned from long seasons of coffee and cotton picking.

Once again, Managua -- Nicaragua's capital -- was filled with youths and adorned with flags, placards, and portraits of Sandino, Carlos Fonseca Amador, and other Nicaraguan heroes and martyrs. During the ceremony that began shortly after 0900 to honor Augusto Cesar Sandino, the father of the Sandinist People's Revolution, 50 years after his assassination, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaragua Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and member of the FSLN National Directorate, announced the date on which elections will be held in this country.

OECS MINISTERS ARRIVE IN ST LUCIA FOR SUMMIT

FL271950 Bridgetown CANA in English 1713 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 27 (CANA) -- Foreign ministers of member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) are arriving here for tomorrow's conference in advance of Wednesday's summit.

The foreign minister's meeting will be chaired by Antigua's Lester Bird and will look at an application for OECS membership by Anguilla, and relations with the Organisation of American States and the Caracas-based Economic Commission for Latin America.

They will also review the existing arrangements for overseas representation in London from Ottawa, consider the feasibility of establishing an OECS presence in the Far East, and (study) other matters related to fisheries, the Law of the Sea, and the extension of maritime zones.

The heads of government under the chairmanship of Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles will review their role in the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada last October.

The OECS states have maintained a military presence in the Spice Isle, where troops assisted by the U.S. military are carrying out security and other policing activities until elections are held.

Director of Administration of the OECS Augustus Compton told CANA the leaders will also consider the establishment of a legal unit within the OECS Secretariat, relations with the British Virgin Islands, and other matters related to the operations of the Supreme Court, civil aviation, and the future of the Eastern Caribbean Tourism Association.

ANGUILLACHIEF MINISTER WEBSTER ON PROJECTS, ELECTIONS

FL242040 Bridgetown CANA in English 1657 GMT 24 Feb 84

[By Alister Hughes]

[Text] The Valley, Anguilla, Feb 24 (CANA) -- Next month's general elections in Anguilla could well be Chief Minister Ronald Webster's last, as he is contemplating bowing out of active politics at the end of the next parliamentary session if his Anguilla People's Party (APP) is returned to power on March 9.

"I have four more projects to complete and after I have completed them, I believe I will take a back seat or perhaps retire from active politics," the 55-year-old leader told CANA in an interview here this week. The four projects are the completion of a new 30-bed hospital for the tiny British colony, building a new 4,000-foot airstrip, construction of a new deep water harbour, and making the U.S. dollar legal tender here. "I believe that within the next five to six years, I will complete the four projects and I have no intention of trying" Webster, who has dominated Anguillian politics for two decades, said. [Sentence as received]

"I don't want the people to elect me out. I want to make sure that I retire when I have accomplished my goals." The burly Webster had a brief spell in the international limelight in 1967 when he led Anguilla's secession from the three-island state of St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.

The proposed 30-bed hospital, already under construction, will replace a 26-bed one which Webster said had become an "overgrown home." There is a 3,600-foot airstrip in operation, but extending it is not feasible because of the topography of the site where it is located. Said Webster: "The new airport will be long enough to take the (48 seater) Avro aircraft like LIAT (the regional island hopping airline) uses." But while there will be room for expansion, we will not cater to jets because we want to control the flow of people into Anguilla."

Regarding the deep-water harbour project, Webster said his government was into discussion on funding with the European Investment Fund, the Caribbean Development Bank, and the British Development Division.

Webster, who has put in Anguilla's application for membership of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), said he envisages some resistance if the application is okayed to the lack of currency control here and this island's plan to make the U.S. dollar legal tender. The East Caribbean dollar, legal currency of the seven OECS member countries, is the official currency here. Webster said he is not prepared to introduce currency controls as obtains in the other OECS countries. [sentence as received]

"We will have to do what we believe is best for our people," he said. "Most of the money in circulation in the island is U.S. currency and most people deal in U.S. dollars. We have our own system here, and we are not going to interfere with that." Webster's decision to call the snap election for next month, a move criticised by the opposition, was taken to get a vote of confidence from the electorate in his administration.

BARBADOS

BWU SAYS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT DANGEROUS LEVELS

FL201358 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 19 (CANA) -- The Barbados Workers Union [BWU], the largest labour union here, has said the current unemployment rate of 15.8 per cent had reached dangerous levels. It called on the Tom Adams administration to pay serious attention to the problem of rising unemployment before "its most serious effects impact on the society."

The union referred to recent or impending public sector lay-offs and said (the union) cannot accept that adding to this already serious situation can be in the best interest of the society. (We) have repeatedly warned that unemployment is a threat to the entire society.

"Government, as a leading employer, has a responsibility to ensure a security of tenure for its workforce as an example to private employers," the union said in a statement. The BWU specifically referred to press reports that workers at the state-run National Housing Corporation will be retrenched because the agency was owed up to two million dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) in rents.

The BWU said it rejected the rationalisation that the jobs of the housing employees should be jeopardised because some renters have been delinquent in paying rents.

It said government should establish regulatory agencies to collect funds belonging to the state, and workers should not be penalised because this was not done. It warned government against privatisation as an answer to the problems in housing.

GRENADA

TALKS ON POSSIBLE GDM, GNP MERGER BREAK DOWN

FL241815 Bridgetown CANA in English 1639 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 24 (CANA) -- Talks between the Grenada National Party (GNP) and the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM) on a possible merger for forthcoming general elections here have broken down, informed political sources said. They said the GNP executive has ordered party leader, ex-Premier Herbert Blaize, to refrain from any further discussions with the GDM.

They said the decision of the GNP, Grenada's oldest political party, was influenced by an influential faction, which felt the fledgling GDM, led by university law lecturer Dr Francis Alexis, has "little credibility" in the country. The GNP Executive asked at the same time that "marriage" talks be pursued with another new group, the National Democratic Party (NDP), to reach some arrangement in time for the poll expected in the latter half of the year. The sources reported some progress in discussions yesterday with the two sides agreeing that should there be a merger with the new group most likely taking the name of National Party or the New National Party.

GDM leader, Francis Alexis, said earlier this month agreement on a merger with the GNP was likely to be reached by the end of this month.

The elections will return Grenada to constitutional, elected rule after a four and a half year revolutionary experiment that ended with a U.S.-led invasion of the island last October after a radical faction of the leftwing government ousted and assassinated Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half of his cabinet.

The last elections were held in 1976, but the elected government of Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy was ousted in a 1979 leftist coup.

JAMAICA

GLEANER ON ELECTIONS, OBJECTIVES IN GRENADA

FL172315 Bridgetown CANA in English 2216 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 17 (CANA) -- Jamaica's leading newspaper, THE GLEANER, today urged a redefinition of the objectives of the caretaker administration in Grenada and suggested that any hurried elections there could be an invitation to further uncertainty and chaos. Elections are planned in Grenada for the latter half of this year to replace the provisional administration that was set up there following the U.S.-led invasion of the island to overthrow leftwing military leaders who had seized power and killed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop during a quarrel in the ruling New Jewel Movement (NJM).

Bishop had himself come to power in a bloodless coup in 1979.

The paper's position was based on a series of opinion polls in Grenada, which among other things, concluded that Grenadians were in favour of putting off elections for up to two years. The GLEANER said the surveys showed that Grenadians wanted to put politics on the backburner and get on with the restoration of social peace and material welfare.

"In this situation the objectives of the caretaker administration may need redefinition. It seems to us that any hurried push to election in an atmosphere of apathy and political uncertainty is an invitation to further chaos," the paper said.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BROAD AGREEMENT REACHED WITH GRENADA GOVERNMENT

FL271848 Bridgetown CANA in English 2335 GMT 25 Feb 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 25 (CANA) -- The Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada Governments tonight wound up seven hours of talks here, announcing broad agreement on a range of subjects, including financial and technical aid, national security, and air services.

The talks between delegations headed by Trinidad and Tobago's Foreign Minister Dr Basil Ince and the chairman of Grenada's interim government, Nicholas Brathwaite, were the first at such a high level between the two governments since last October's controversial U.S.-led invasion of that island to rout a leftist military junta that had staged a coup there.

The Trinidad Government said it was still considering a request from St George's for counterpart financing for development as well as for technical assistance in planning and legal matters as well as road engineering.

Grenada agreed to give favourable consideration to a Trinidad request for access to the island by the state-owned national airline BWIA International. This the Grenadians said would be subject to whatever reservations the inter-island carrier, LIAT, may have. Brathwaite and his delegation also indicated they would favourably consider Trinidad's wish to establish a consular office in St George's. Grenada again asked the Trinidadians to drop the requirement that Grenadian nationals must first secure a visa if they wish to come here.

Brathwaite was accompanied by Secretary of the Grenada Advisory Council Kurt Strachan, and Dr Ince by his Acting Permanent Secretary Christopher R. Thomas and by Ambassador to Grenada Dr Basil Pitt.

The text of the communique said (in part):

Discussions Centred on the following Matters:

Visa Arrangements:

1. The present arrangement for Grenada nationals wishing to travel to Trinidad and Tobago was reviewed by the representatives of both countries and an agreement was reached that efforts would be made to provide for a speedier and more expeditious processing of visa applications. The delegation of Grenada emphasised, however, that they hoped that, in the near future, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will find it possible to remove the existing visa requirements.

Technical Assistance:

2. Under this question, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago informed that the decision was forthcoming on the provision of personnel for technical assistance in the areas of planning and legal matters. It was also agreed that requests for technical assistance on road engineering will be considered as soon as possible.

Caricom Oil Facility:

3. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago explained that the Caricom oil facility was being reviewed at the present time, and that a response to the Grenada Government request would only be given after the review.

Counterpart Financing:

4. The delegation of Grenada was informed that the request made under this heading was still under consideration by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

BWIA:

5. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago raised the question of access by BWIA to travel to and from Grenada. The Grenada delegation indicated that, subject to whatever reservations LIAT might have, they would be prepared to consider, favourably, the request of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Establishment of a Consular Office in Grenada:

6. In respect of the establishment of a Trinidad and Tobago consular office in Grenada, the chairman of the advisory council indicated that the advisory council would give favourable consideration to the establishment of such an office.

Security:

7. Both countries recognised the importance, at this time, of the need for proper security arrangements in Grenada, and the Trinidad and Tobago delegation expressed its interest in assisting in the achievement of that goal and, in that connection, agreed to consider a request of the Government of Grenada for assistance in the provision of the necessary personnel to be decided after consultation.

It was agreed by both delegations that channels of communication should be kept open in order that the process of co-operation and dialogue be continued. Both countries recognised the traditional ties between them and expressed the view that all efforts should be made to preserve and strengthen these to the mutual benefits of their peoples.

SURINAMEBOUTERSE ON NETHERLANDS RELATIONS, ANNIVERSARY

PA260004 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] On the eve of the fourth anniversary of the Suriname revolution, military leader Desi Bouterse has declared that his country will adopt an objective policy toward the Netherlands. This policy will be aimed at reestablishing relations. However, above all, Suriname will maintain its principles and aspirations as well as its integrity and dignity. Bouterse has expressed hope that the Netherlands will soon be convinced that its policy regarding Suriname is mistaken. He added that the Netherlands has not correctly judged events in Suriname.

Regarding the country's poor economic situation, he said that the country had been excessively dependent on aid for development and has been deprived of that aid. In addition, Suriname has not escaped the consequences of the worldwide recession. In contrast to past years, the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the coup d'etat will be modest. There will be only one reception, a wreath will be placed on the monument to the revolution, and there will be some fireworks. No demonstrations have been organized. According to observers, this is due to the people's lack of interest in the celebration of 25 February.

AMBASSADOR TO NETHERLANDS TO LEAVE POST

FL241645 Hilversum International Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Suriname's Ambassador to the Netherlands Mr (Henk Herenberg) will leave Holland for good within the next few months. He gave the news on his arrival at Amsterdam airport from Paramaribo. He had gone there last week for consultations with the Army leaders and the new government. In Suriname he will be involved in the media. During the coming months Mr (Herenberg) will orientate himself as widely as possible in the fields of national and international information and communications. He said that there were plans for a press code, laying down policy lines for the media in Suriname. Mr (Herenberg) added that the rights of the press could be linked to responsibility towards the country.

It is not yet known who will be Mr (Herenberg's) successor at the Suriname Embassy in the Hague, and exactly when he will be presenting his credentials.

URUGUAYARMY COMMANDER SATISFIED WITH POLITICAL DIALOGUE

PY241840 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] According to the Army commander, the talks with party leaders are proceeding satisfactorily. Lieutenant Genral Pedro Aranco said, however, that for the time being it would be unwise to issue any statement about the political talks, and that it was better to keep silent on the issue. He also said that for the time being it cannot be specified when a formal political dialogue with political leaders will start, but he expressed his satisfaction over the development of the talks.